



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-196
Wednesday
11 October 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-196

CONTENTS

11 October 1995

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Palestinian Unrest Growing on Egypt-Libya Border	1
Masses Protest Blockade at Border [JANA]	1
900 Refugees Close Crossing to Traffic [AFP]	1
Youths Set Truck on Fire; Fire Spreads [AFP]	1
UN Reportedly Rejects Libyan Newspaper's Report [JANA]	2
New Total Chief on Arab World Oil Prospects [London AL-HAYAH 10 Oct]	2
American Universities Graduate Arab Nationalists [AL-RAYAH 20 Aug]	4

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 1 Oct	6
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 3 Oct	9

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Discusses Autonomy Expansion Agreement [Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 9 Oct]	11
'Arafat on Self-Rule, Mubarak, 'Procrastination' [Cairo International]	13
'Arafat Views Future Peace Talks [Cairo TV]	14
'Arafat Adviser Kanafani on Implementing Accord [Jericho VOP]	16
Officials Refuse To Facilitate Release Process [Jerusalem Radio]	17
Official on Lack of Israeli Coordination on Release [Jericho VOP]	17
Official Comments on Release of Prisoners [Jerusalem Radio]	17
'Arafat Spokesman: Israel Must Abide by Agreement [Amman Radio]	18
Al-Rujub on IDF Withdrawal, Agreement With Hamas [Jerusalem TV]	19
Palestinians Ask IDF To Accelerate Redeployment [Jerusalem Radio]	20
Celebration To Mark Withdrawal From Salfit [Jericho VOP]	20
Hamas, PA Said Moving Toward Halt to 'Terrorism' [Jerusalem Radio]	20
Hamas-PA 'Reconciliation' Plan Outlined [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Oct]	20
'Arafat Associates Expect Agreement With Hamas [Jerusalem TV]	22
Relations Between Syria, Damascus 10 Examined [AL-'AHD 9 Oct]	22
Al-Zahhar on Political Party, PA Relations [Jericho VOP]	23

Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th, Israeli Minister Discuss Future Cooperation [Jericho VOP]	24
Al-Tibi Petitions Israel on Prisoners [Tel Aviv Radio]	25

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

GIA Statements on Bombings, Chirac Reported [London AL-HAYAH 8 Oct]	27
FIS Says GIA Claims on Bomb Attacks 'Forged' [Paris LE FIGARO 10 Oct]	28
FIS' Haddam on Chirac-Zeroual Meeting, GIA [Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	29
Security Forces Kill 100 Islamists [Paris TV]	30

Dailies Report Imam, Teacher Killed [Paris Teletext]	30
War Veteran, Son, Assassinated in Bouzareah [Algiers Radio]	30
Egypt	
Official Comments on Israeli, U.S. Peace Stands [MENA]	30
Mubarak Returns After Talks in Damascus [MENA]	30
Information Minister Comments on Damascus Talks [MENA]	31
Musa on Peace Process, Arab Issues, U.S. [London AL-HAYAH 6 Oct]	31
Musa's Meeting With al-Qadhdhafi Reported [MENA]	34
Shaykh's Conviction Shows Country's Security Skill [AL-AHRAM 3 Oct]	34
Uzbek Foreign Minister Opens Embassy in Cairo [Cairo Radio]	34
Cooperation Protocol Signed [MENA]	34
Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Musa [MENA]	35
Government To Send Aid to Bosnia [MENA]	35
Ethiopian Envoy on Sudanese 'Criminals' [MENA]	35
Petroleum Minister on Oil, Natural Gas Reserves [MENA]	35
Labor Party Notes Program for Assembly Election [AL-SHA'B 1 Oct]	36
Chief of Staff Views Sudan, Security, Exercises [MENA]	36
Military Chief Discusses 'Bright Star' Maneuvers [Cairo TV]	37
Muslim Brotherhood Opens London Information Center [AL-SAFIR 30 Sep]	37
Attorney General on Arrest of Brotherhood Leaders [MENA]	38
Libya	
Al-Qadhdhafi To Visit Egypt, Mubarak [MENA]	38
Jallud Set To Return Despite 'Pressure' by Egypt [London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 8 Oct]	38
UN Mission Refutes U.S. Comments on Palestinians [JANA]	39
DPRK Envoy on 'Unjust' Sanctions, Palestinians [Tripoli Radio]	39
UN Envoy on Right To Try Lockerbie Suspects [Tripoli Radio]	40
Mauritania	
President Announces New Ministerial Appointments [Nouakchott Radio]	40
Tunisia	
Prime Minister Meets Bosnian Counterpart [Tunis Radio]	40
Silajdzic Hails Relations [Tunis Radio]	40
Chairman of Socialist Democrats Movement Arrested	41
No Explanation for Arrest Given [Paris International]	41
MDS Deputy Comments on Arrest [Paris International]	41
Money, Documents Said Found in Home [Algiers Radio]	41
Western Sahara	
Envoy Denounces King Hassan Visit to Laayoune [Radio of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic]	42
IRAQ	
Official Reportedly Flees; News Conference Set [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Oct]	43
Opposition Groups Reportedly Met Before Defections [Paris AL-MUHARRIR 9 Oct]	43
Saddam Moves Kuwaiti Prisoners From Baghdad [Voice of Rebellious Iraq]	44
Saddam Meets Turkey's Soysal, Urges Cooperation [Istanbul HURRIYET 5 Oct]	44
Referendum Workers Continue To Cast Votes [INA]	45

Papers Intensify Campaign for Saddam's Presidency [AL-JUMHURIYAH 4 Oct, etc.]	45
Pupils Renew Saddam's Mandate as President [Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	46

ISRAEL

Rabin To Support U.S. Military Aid to Jordan [HA'ARETZ 11 Oct]	47
Activists Petition U.S. To Move Embassy [MA'ARIV 11 Oct]	47
Prisoner Release Proceeding; 960 To Be Released [Jerusalem Radio]	47
Over 400 Palestinian Prisoners Freed 'So Far' [Jerusalem TV]	48
Radio: Some 800 Palestinian Prisoners Released [Jerusalem Radio]	48
Press Views Prisoner Release Issue [HA'ARETZ 10 Oct, etc.]	48
Rabin, Aides Allow Return of Senior Fatah Members [Jerusalem Radio]	49
Peres Said Pushing Autonomy Elections Forward [HATZOFE 10 Oct]	50
Citizens Said To Visit Iraq Via Turkish Border [MA'ARIV 10 Oct]	50
NEQUDA Press Review for Sep	50

JORDAN

Israeli Request To Shelter Collaborators Rejected [AL-MAJD 9 Oct]	52
Government To Prosecute Journalist for Libel [KUNA]	52
Al-Kabariti's UN General Assembly Address Reported [Amman TV]	52
Al-Kabariti on Ties With Iraq, Peace Process [London AL-HAYAH 8 Oct]	53
Minister Approves Merger of 3 Political Parties [Amman TV]	56
Arab States Urged To Prevent Iraq's Breakup [JORDAN TIMES 9 Oct]	56
Article Discusses Iraq, King Husayn's Role [London AL-HAWADITH 1 Sep]	57
Editorial on Resurfacing of Confederation Question [AL-URDUN 9 Oct]	58

LEBANON

Nasrallah's Meeting With al-Asad's Son Reported [Voice of the Oppressed]	60
Soldier Said 'Severely Wounded' in Clash [Jerusalem Radio]	60
Clashes in South, Casualties Reported [VOL]	60

SYRIA

Mubarak Arrives for Meetings With al-Asad	61
Leaders Discuss Peace Developments [Damascus Radio]	61
Closed Meeting, Working Lunch Held [SANA]	61
News Conference Reported [Damascus TV]	61
Al-Asad Comments on Peace Process, 'Pressure' [MENA]	63
Minister: Damascus Not 'Frightened' by War Threats [London MBC TV]	64

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Taleban, Russian Delegation Discuss Prisoners [Islamabad International]	66
Taleban Reportedly Takes Strategic Town Near Kabul [AFP]	66
Minister Describes Taleban as 'Enemies of Islam' [Kabul Radio]	66
Proposed Council Said To Decide Future Leadership [Islamabad Radio]	66

Bangladesh

Minister Reports on 'Objectives' of Visit to Iran [IRNA]	67
Iranian President Pays Official 4-Day Visit	67
Arrives, Welcomed at Airport [IRNA]	67

Holds 'Courtesy Meeting' With Biswas [Dhaka International]	67
Discusses Common 'Islamic Faith' [Dhaka Radio]	68
Comments on Aiding 'World Peace' [IRNA]	68
Comments on Joint Economic Commission [Dhaka Radio]	68
Commentary Views 'Momentous' Visit [Dhaka Radio]	69
Report on Minister's Statement at UN Assembly [THE DAILY STAR 28 Sep]	69
Antigovernment Strike Held; Explosions Reported [AFP]	70

India

Business Leader Comments on Visit to Middle East [Delhi Radio]	71
Joint Commission Meeting With Russia Begins [Delhi TV]	71
CPI Condemns U.S. Attempt To Arm Pakistan [Delhi Radio]	72
CPI 'Solidarity' Expressed for Cuba's Castro [Delhi Radio]	72
President Addresses National Security 'Challenges' [Delhi Radio]	72
Military Assured Funds After U.S. Arms to Pakistan [Delhi Radio]	72

Iran

Nuclear Ties With China, U.S. Reaction Discussed [Tehran International]	72
Commentary Discusses Mubarak-al-Asad Meeting [Tehran Radio]	73
Commentary Addresses President's Visit to Vietnam [Tehran International]	73
Envoy, Cuban Minister Discuss Economic Cooperation [IRNA]	74
Majiles Speaker, German Ambassador Discuss Ties [IRNA]	74
Russian Ambassador Interviewed on Ties, Issues [ABRAR 27 Sep]	74
Finance Minister Meets With Russian Counterpart [IRNA]	79
Japanese Official on Expansion of Economic Ties [IRNA]	79
Resistance Council Holds Session on 'Developments' [Soc.Culture.Iranian]	79
'Hardline Clerics' Role in Elections Viewed [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Oct]	80
Article Discusses Clergy, Political Future [AL-SHARQ 29 Jul]	80

Pakistan

Ali's Remarks on Kashmir, U.S. Visit Reported [Islamabad Radio]	82
Leadership Views Punjab, Karachi, National Security [THE NEWS 8 Oct]	83
MQM Said Seeking Kabul Aid To Cause Karachi Unrest [THE NATION 11 Oct]	83
'Notorious Terrorist,' Accomplices Said Killed [Islamabad International]	83
Altaf Group Calls For Day of Mourning, Inquiry [Islamabad Radio]	84
MQM Calls For 12 Oct Strike [THE NEWS 11 Oct]	84
Government Team Leader Comments on Karachi Talks [Islamabad Radio]	84
Government Asks Altaf Group To Set Date for Talks [Islamabad Radio]	85
MQM Negotiator Says Government Fails on Promises [THE NATION 9 Oct]	85
MQM Team Said 'Free To Travel Abroad' [THE MUSLIM 9 Oct]	85
Plan To Extradite Altaf Hussain From UK Reported [KHABRAIN 10 Oct]	86
Accord Signed With Spain for Development Credit [Islamabad TV]	86

Sri Lanka

Defense Ministry Updates Operation 'Thunder Strike' [Colombo International]	86
LTTE Reportedly Renews Attacks Against Army [AFP]	86
Army Chief Vows 'To Annihilate' Tamil Rebels [AFP]	86
LTTE Reportedly Attempts To Kill Tamil Party Leader [Delhi Radio]	87
Party Leader Suspects LTTE [AFP]	88
LTTE Intelligence Chief Reportedly Removed [Delhi Radio]	88
Germany To Provide 1.8 Billion Rupees for Projects [Colombo International]	88

Inter-Arab Affairs

Palestinian Unrest Growing on Egypt-Libya Border

Masses Protest Blockade at Border

LD0910195095 Tripoli JANA in English
1814 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Umm Sa'd, al-Tumur [October] 9, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Arab Palestinian masses present on the imaginary border area between the Great Jamahariyah and Egypt continued their protests at the blocking of al-Salum border point on their way to return to their homeland, Palestine.

Various Arab and international news media highlighted the aspects of protest by the Palestinian Arab masses which have gathered in this area to confirm their insistence to implement the rightful solution which was adopted to return home in occupied Palestine and the rejection of life in the diaspora, in the tents and camps of misery and suffering.

The Arab Palestinian masses also want to forsake the Israelis and the imperialist of the chance to implement their strategy of settling Palestinian Arab people outside their homeland so that Palestine becomes a land for the Israelis from the diaspora.

The international news media in reports sent by correspondents that the Palestinians have burned car tyres and wires and slept on the roads and called on journalists to convey their tragedy to international public opinion and also to express their determination to return to their homeland, Palestine. The Palestinians appealed to the Arab countries to open their border to them so that every Palestinian from the diaspora can march towards return and towards Palestine.

The international news media also transmitted live coverage of the protests against blocking al-Salum border points in front of the Palestinian masses to block their path of return to occupied Palestine. The agencies also highlighted the declaration of the hunger strike and the urgent appeals made to various international organisations to send delegates to witness the circumstances of Palestinians on the imaginary border between the Great Jamahariyah and Egypt.

900 Refugees Close Crossing to Traffic

NC1010171795 Paris AFP in English
1524 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Sallum, Egypt, Oct 10 (AFP) — Some 900 Palestinians between Egypt and Libya closed the border to traffic for the third time in a week in protest at their plight, a border official here said.

Men, women and children from the tent camp set up by Libya in the no man's land between the borders gathered Tuesday [10 October] afternoon on the road between Libya's al-Masa'id border post and Egypt's al-Sallum post.

They sat down with Palestinian flags on the pavement and stopped all traffic from either direction, vowing the road would remain closed "as long as they are left in the desert," the al-Sallum official said.

But they decided not to launch a hunger strike which they had announced would begin on Tuesday, the official said.

Meanwhile, a mission from the Palestinian Red Crescent arrived at the tent camp on Tuesday to give medical help to the stranded.

Most of the 900 have been trapped in the desert zone for more than 10 days after being expelled by Libya and refused entry by Egypt.

The Palestinians have closed the road twice since Wednesday when Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi made a fiery speech in the zone calling on Egypt to open its border and let them "return home to Palestine."

Egypt has refused to allow entry to any deportees who can not prove they can enter the Gaza Strip or Jordan.

Al-Qadhafi, presenting himself as the "protector" of the Palestinians, began the expulsions in early September a bid to prove the "failure" of Israel-PLO self-rule accords, insisting Palestinians should be allowed to return home.

Youths Set Truck on Fire; Fire Spreads

NC1010203795 Paris AFP in English
2008 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Sallum, Egypt, Oct 10 (AFP) — A fire swept through a tent camp sheltering about 900 Palestinians trapped in no man's land between Egypt and Libya after youngsters set alight a Libyan lorry, Egyptian border police said late Tuesday [10 October].

About 10 out of the 70 tents erected at the camp caught fire in the blaze but it was not known if there were any casualties, they added.

Panicked Palestinians ran towards the Egyptian border post, but were beaten back by guards trying to stop them from entering Egypt, a traveller told AFP.

Some 30 young Palestinians set fire to the lorry carrying plastic materials as it tried to cross the border, which

they earlier blocked to traffic for the third time in a week to protest their plight.

They prevented a fire engine from al-Sallum from putting out the lorry fire forcing it to turn back.

A short time later the flames fanned by the wind swept across the road to the camp some 50 metres (yards) away, also setting alight a nearby police car.

The Palestinians have been stuck in no man's land since being expelled from Libya on the orders of leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi and are refused entry to Egypt because they do not have the correct travel documents.

UN Reportedly Rejects Libyan Newspaper's Report

*LD1010100395 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0845 GMT 10 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 10 Oct (JANA — The UN High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] rejects AL-HAYAT reports on the conditions in which Palestinians are living at the Return Camp on the imaginary border between the Great Jamahiriya and Egypt. In a statement addressed to AL-HAYAT, it says that Batus Muftris, the official in charge of foreign relations at the commission's office in Cairo, visited the camp, and personally acquainted himself with the generous humanitarian aid provided by the Great Jamahiriya to the camp residents, including foodstuff, water, tents, blankets, stretchers, and medical aid.

The UNHCR stresses that the only solution to refugees' problems is their return to their homeland, something which applies to Palestinian refugees.

New Total Chief on Arab World Oil Prospects

*MM1010152495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
10 Oct 95 p 13*

[Interview with Thierry Demarest, new president of the French oil company Total, by Randah Taqiy-al-Din in Paris; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Taqiy-al-Din] Some time ago, Total signed a contract with Iran for the development of the two maritime fields of Sirri, but Coface (the French investment guarantee company) stopped providing guarantees for investments in Iran some time ago. How will you overcome this problem, and has it been an obstacle in the way of your agreement with Iran, as is rumored in some circles?

[Demarest] We said from the start, upon signing the contract, that we would be taking on partners in this project on the basis of 50 percent for Total and 50 percent for the partners. A number of oil companies have expressed their interest in joining this project, and

in this manner, we resolve our problem. In fact, this is a traditional method, as we have always entered into partnerships in respect of production projects.

With regard to the contract with Iran, if we bear only half of the financial burden, then the level of the risks we will be facing will be equal to the level of risks we face in a number of developing countries. The cost of investment in the Iranian contract amounts to \$600 million, of which we will bear \$300 million and the partners we will be choosing will bear the remaining \$300 million. Thus there will be no problem. With regard to the cost and volume of investment in Iran, Total will have no problem in providing an investment of \$300 million.

[Taqiy-al-Din] How far have you got in choosing partners for the Iranian project?

[Demarest] Several companies have sent us letters expressing interest in joining us in the project. So we have to explain the project to them. We will need several months before we can agree on who will be our partners. This is a normal procedure followed by companies.

[Taqiy-al-Din] What about the negotiations for the sale of Iranian gas in future?

[Demarest] Our project with Iran is based on the principle that it would be a beneficial one even if no gas exportation was involved. Naturally, the project would be more advantageous to us if there was some measure of exportation of gas. So we have begun preliminary contacts to find out how to organize contracts for the exportation of the associated gas from the Sirri oil fields at the rate of 20 billion cubic meters annually.

[Taqiy-al-Din] Has Total any new strategy for increasing production in the Arab countries region?

[Demarest] The company has a strategy based on bolstering the section of production and exploration. We have suffered in the past because the production and exploration section was small compared to the refining and distribution section. So our present idea is to keep the size of the refining and distribution section as it is and expand the exploration and production section.

We have witnessed in the past five years an increase in oil prospecting and production operations in Asia and Latin America. We have been operating in the Middle East for a number of years and we have experience there. There are also possibilities there.

We have made efforts in this region. For example, we have been in contact with Iran for four years. Our persistence has recently borne fruit. In Oman, we have succeeded in securing field No. 4, which seems to us to

be promising. This field necessitated several years too before we succeeded in securing it. The "Qatar Gas" project for the exportation of natural gas from Qatar took 10 years of contacts and discussions.

In Yemen, we began by prospecting for oil fields, and then we discovered gas in the neutral zone. In view of our experience in the field of gas projects, we paid great attention to the project for the exportation of Yemeni gas. We tendered to the Yemeni Government the best bid tendered to it and so it chose us. We also have a major involvement in the field of investment to increase production capacity in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

We believe that an important part of the increase in world oil production will come from the Middle East. Total's potential oil production amounts to 2.2 billion barrels in the Middle East. We have to replace what we produce annually in the region, that is about 100 million barrels of oil — which is a minimal level. We have to try to increase our potential production from the Middle East region.

We have succeeded in increasing our potential oil production from outside the Middle East as well. On the international level, our aim is to reach a level of potential of 5 billion barrels of oil by the end of this century, half from the Middle East and the other half from outside it. This will enable us to achieve our objective, which is a level of production amounting to 1 million barrels of oil daily at the beginning of the next century and the preservation of the life of reserves for a period of 13 to 14 years.

[Taqiy-al-Din] Is there anything new about Total's operations in Abu Dhabi, where the company has a basic presence?

[Demarest] The most important thing that has happened recently in Abu Dhabi was the starting of the operation of the gas liquefaction plant at the island of Das last year.

The problem now is that Abu Dhabi's production is limited by the size of its OPEC quota. Abu Dhabi has the capacity to increase its production, but it has to abide by its production quota. Abu Dhabi has a production capacity that exceeds its current level of production.

[Taqiy-al-Din] With regard to the gas project in Yemen, you have given the American companies a three months' period of grace to join Total in the project for the exportation of the Yemeni gas. Why did you specify this period of grace? Do you have any problems with these companies?

[Demarest] No. We have given priority to the companies that submitted tenders in the first bid for the project.

We have given them a period of three months to reach an agreement with us because they showed interest in the project from the very beginning, particularly Hunt Exxon and the Korean company Yokong [as transliterated]. Should we fail to reach an agreement within three months, then we will hold talks with other companies.

[Taqiy-al-Din] In the light of the high cost of production in gas projects and in view of the falling price of oil, what are the advantages of gas projects for countries such as Yemen and other countries which do not possess great financial resources, when the demand for gas is limited due to the fact that the price of oil has declined so much that it has begun to compete with gas?

[Demarest] With regard to Yemen, it is foreign companies that finance the basic investments. We cannot say that Yemen will suffer huge costs for the exploitation of its gas, because it will earn revenue at not too big a cost. There are several projects in the region aimed at supplying the Far East with gas in the years after 2002. We consider Yemen to be well placed to occupy a position among the supplier countries. We must not waste time letting rival projects seize the markets. For this reason, we must form a group which will implement the project under Total's management. It was for this reason that we fixed a period of three months for the two companies Hunt Exxon and Yokong.

[Taqiy-al-Din] Have you reached an agreement with Hunt on the utilization of the oil pipeline from the field you operate in Yemen?

[Demarest] This pipeline is used for the transportation of oil from the Alwa field which we are developing. We concluded a contract with Hunt to secure the right of using the pipeline they have built for the Ma'rib oil field. We have begun the development of the Alwa oil field which will begin production in a year's time at a level of 15-20,000 barrels per day.

[Taqiy-al-Din] Have the events in Yemen impeded your operations there?

[Demarest] Perhaps. We have lost six months but not more. The agreements on the use of the pipelines which link the various fields were what took some time. However, the problems with the builders of the pipelines have now been resolved.

[Taqiy-al-Din] How far have development and prospecting operations being carried out by Total in Libya progressed?

[Demarest] We are now working on the Mabruk oil field which at present produces 6,000 barrels per day. The structure of this oil field is somewhat complex. We have

tried it experimentally with a small level of production but we will try to increase it before deciding the level of its full development.

We are also working with Ribsol [as transliterated] and OMV [acronym published in English] for the development of the Marzuq oil field, which will begin production next year. This oil field is situated in southwestern Libya, and it will produce about 100,000 barrels per day. Total owns 30 percent of the international group of companies' share.

[Taqiy-al-Din] Are you facing any problems in Libya because of the international sanctions?

[Demarest] There are some complications such as the changeover of staff and workers. This is because there are no planes to Libya and the equipment orders take longer to arrive, while the cost is higher. However, we are overcoming these complications.

[Taqiy-al-Din] What about your operations in Algeria?

[Demarest] We have begun production at the El Hamra oil field. Its level of production will reach 40,000 barrels per day when it reaches its normal capacity.

[Taqiy-al-Din] A Total delegation recently visited Iraq. Have there been any new developments with regard to the contract for the development of the Nahr 'Umar oil field? Have you made any progress with your negotiations?

[Demarest] We have never said that we had reached the eve of signing a contract with Iraq. It was even reported that we had actually signed contracts. But these reports are untrue. We have said that we have defined an agreement with our Iraqi partners and that we are now holding talks concerning the contractual terms with them for the development of the Nahr 'Umar oil field. Naturally, there are certain political circumstances that act as a background for concluding contracts with them. But this matter has nothing to do with us.

We are still at the stage of negotiations, which we began three years ago. We are continually making progress with our talks, but we have not yet reached the stage of signing.

[Taqiy-al-Din] Have the recent developments in Iraq and the defection of Husayn Kamil, who used to control the oil sector, affected your talks?

[Demarest] In the field of operations, stability prevails. Our interlocutors have remained the same. It is true that the talks are not moving fast, but they are constantly progressing.

[Taqiy-al-Din] Have you visited Iraq recently and will you be going there shortly?

[Demarest] I have not visited Iraq. When we hold talks, some of my colleagues in the company conduct these talks.

[Taqiy-al-Din] Should Total sign a contract with Iraq, how long would it take before production from the Nahr 'Umar oil field could begin?

[Demarest] Following the signing of the contract and the lifting of the sanctions on Iraq, production from the oil field could begin in two or three years.

[Taqiy-al-Din] What about the Qatar Gas project?

[Demarest] It is proceeding well. Production will begin at the beginning of 1997.

[Taqiy-al-Din] How do you view the future of oil prices?

[Demarest] The prices will remain not at a high level. We do not think that the increase in the price of oil will enable us to make more profits and recoup our investments. We may settle on an average price of \$16 for the coming few years.

[Taqiy-al-Din] What about the project for the exportation of gas from Oman?

[Demarest] We have a share of 6 percent of this project alongside the Shell company. The problem now is how to find clients for Oman's gas.

American Universities Graduate Arab Nationalists *95AE0059A Doha AL-RAYAH in Arabic 20 Aug p 13*

[Article by 'Abd-al-Halim Qindil: "American Universities Graduate Arab Nationalists!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the relations between the United States and the Arabs, there have always been areas involving clashes as well as areas of contact and bridges that have been extended between the two parties.

The bridges of contact have included the American universities in the Arab world, that is, the American University of Beirut, the American University in Cairo, and a third American university that will soon be established in the United Arab Emirates. It is ironical that these universities have often been the scene of activities hostile to the United States, and their graduates played prominent roles in the Arab nationalist movement during the fifties and sixties.

The American universities in the Arab world have independent administrations but are, at the same time, linked to a central council of trustees in New York. The council also administers a number of similar U.S. universities in various areas of the world, and all of these universities adhere to the U.S. system of education. The

language of instruction in them is English, and one of their jobs is to spread the American way of life.

The activity of these universities is not unlike political activity, in the broad sense of the word. During the diamond anniversary ceremony of the American University in Cairo, its current president, Donald McDonald, said: "The university offers American-style instruction and, at the same time, promotes Middle Eastern values and principles." This meant possessing an understanding of the heritage of the Arabs and the identity of the host country, but in the context of U.S. concepts concerning the Middle East.

Universities and Branches

The American University in Cairo is not the only university of this type in Egypt. After agreement was reached with the Egyptian Ministry of Education, steps are being taken to establish a new university that will be a branch of City University in the state of Washington. This university already has branches in Japan, Southeast Asia, and Western and Eastern Europe and intends to extend its activities to the Middle East—starting with Egypt.

The American University in Cairo began operating 75 years ago. It began as a secondary school, run by Charles Watson, a member of one of the U.S. Christian missionary organizations. It is located in the heart of Cairo, near Tahrir Square, and currently has an enrollment of 4,300 students. Each student pays yearly tuition totalling 29,000 Egyptian pounds. Most of the students are Egyptians (3,086), but they are followed, in descending order in terms of numbers, by U.S. students from families residing in Cairo, Jordanians, Palestinians, and students from the Gulf area, and there are also 11,000 students who are doing independent studies.

The American University of Beirut is older than the American University in Cairo. It began functioning 138 years ago during the time when Lebanon was part of the Ottoman Empire. At first its name was the "Syrian Protestant College." It is located in the Ra's Beirut area, in the western part of the Lebanese capital city. When the Lebanese civil war broke out and the headquarters of the university was hit by shelling, this prevented professors and students from coming in from the eastern part of Beirut. As a result of this, the university was forced to establish a branch in al-Ashrafiyah, which became known as the "outside branch," because it was outside the original university campus. This outside branch of the university operated from 1971 till 1990, when it was closed because the situation in Lebanon had returned to normal.

The two American universities in Cairo and Beirut depend on various sources for their financing. The most important of these sources of financing are student tuition and donations by wealthy individuals, banks, and companies, including the Apple Corporation, IBM, Bank of America, Palmolive, and the Japanese firm Sony. If the universities have budget problems, the U.S. Government intervenes directly. In 1959, the U.S. Aid Organization [hay'at al-ma'unah al-amrikiyah] intervened to cover the budget deficit of the American University in Cairo, and U.S. government aid covered two-thirds of the university's expenses in 1971. The U.S. Aid Organization still supports the university by means of building housing for the students and financing some of its research.

New Orientalism

With time, a type of Arabization has taken place in the two American universities in Cairo and Beirut. Most of the two universities' professors are Arabs. In the American University of Cairo, for example, 55 percent of the professors are Egyptians and 32 percent of them are Americans. Furthermore, the two universities, to some degree, respond to the requirements of the local communities. The American University in Cairo provides consulting services to Egyptian companies, including war production firms, and oversees two social research and desert development centers. The American University of Beirut administers an agricultural education research center in Hawsh Sinayd, in the al-Biq'a' area.

Of course, the role of the American universities in the Arab world cannot be isolated from U.S. policy generally, and graduates of the American universities usually constitute a Westernized segment of society and are attached to the traditions of the American way of life. There are many ways in which this process of Westernization is achieved, for example, costume and dancing parties, beauty queen contests, U.S. literature weeks, film festivals, and priority when it comes to employment opportunities in U.S. embassies and the branches of U.S. firms, and so on. Also, these universities make an active contribution in the field of research dealing with political and social phenomena—such as, for example, the phenomenon of the Islamic revival—which is useful to the United States when it formulates its policies concerning the Arabs.

But the winds do not always blow in the direction that one wishes. The American universities in the Arab world have produced a new generation of U.S. orientalist who have been more understanding of, and have had a more just attitude toward, issues concerning the Arabs. One of these was the late Malcolm Kerr who, for a long time, was the director of the University of

California Research Center at the American University of Cairo. He wrote many works, including the book "The Arabs in the Cold War" and "Scenarios of the Arab Future." Kerr clearly sided with the Arab nationalist movement led by Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, even though he worked in Egypt during the time of the administration of Sadat, America's favorite friend. In the eighties, Kerr went to work at the American University of Beirut, and he was assassinated in Beirut in 1985.

Political Activity

The administration of the American universities follows a relatively cautious and flexible policy with regard to the activities of their Arab students, but does take tough measures when necessary. Recently the American University in Cairo put a stop to the publication of AL-FAJR, which was being put out by Islamist students, although the university allowed open activity on the part of the families of the university students and complete freedom regarding elections in student federations. Also, the university newspaper AL-QAFILAH, which is published partly in English and partly in Arabic, sometimes contains criticism of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

The American University of Beirut has taken more severe measures against political activities by students. But that did not prevent the university from becoming a historical incubator of the Arab nationalist movement in the late forties and during the fifties and sixties. It all began with study groups that went under the name of the "Firm Tie Association" [jamiyat al-'urwah al-wuthqa], which the university administration permitted to make studies of the literature and heritage of the Arabs. Those prominent in these study groups included Dr. Qistantin Zurayq, who established the Association of Arab Nationalists during the late twenties. Zurayq called for the modernization of Arab life by means of Western culture and science and by unification of the Arabs in response to the loss of Palestine. Zurayq had the support of students who later on became leaders in the Arab nationalist movement, and some of them became Marxists. These students established a secret terrorist organization called the "Arab Fedayeen Battalions" [kata'ib al-fida' al-'arabi]. Prominent individuals among them were the Palestinians Georges Habash and Wadi' Hadad, the Syrian Hani al-Hindi, and the Kuwaiti Ahmad al-Khatib. They all met at the American University and later on became political leaders known for their political opposition to the United States, in particular. In his memoirs, Georges Habash, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and former medical student at the American University of Beirut, says: "The university administration was against our activities and expelled some students, but then was forced

to readmit them after strikes were held." Dr. Nadim al-Bitar, a prominent nationalist thinker who is a supporter of Nasserism, says that his nationalist consciousness was formed in the American University of Beirut when he interacted with the Arab nationalist, Ba'thist, and communist students. Dr. Layla Sharaf, former Jordanian minister of information, said in an interview with the press that was published a week ago: "I met my late husband, al-Sharif 'Abd-al-Hamid Sharaf, former prime minister of Jordan, while we were students at the American University of Beirut and when we were both active in the university's 'cultural' club, which was a front for the activities of the Arab nationalist students."

And so ironies sometimes are born, such as universities established by the United States that educate students who then dedicate their lives to opposing the United States.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 1 Oct NC0710124595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 1 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Labor Party's Election Program Published
2. Labor, Islamic Alliance Leaders To Run for Parliament
3. Professor Views Freedoms, Shura Under Shari'ah
4. Mubarak's Comments on Brotherhood Trial Denounced
5. No Evidence Submitted at Brotherhood Military Trial
6. Labor Party Members Arrested; Preacher Banned
7. Islamist students, Teachers Harassed
8. Ban on Outdoor Election Rallies Denounced
9. Murder of Egyptian POW's Viewed

LABOR PARTY'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN PUBLISHED

The Labor Party's election program is published in an approximately 400-word report on page 12.

LABOR, ISLAMIC ALLIANCE LEADERS TO RUN FOR PARLIAMENT

Under the headline "The Labor Party and Islamic Alliance Leaders Will Contest the Battle," an approximately 200-word unattributed report on page 1 states that some of the "most prominent" leaders of the Labor Party and the Islamic Alliance will take part in

the coming elections for the People's Assembly. The report notes that analysts expect it to be one of the "hottest" election battles in the country's modern history, since it will draw the country's map for the near future, depending on the people's "ability to resist any attempt to falsify their will and to strike at any scheme to rig the elections and alter the people's real choice." Among the candidates are Labor Party President Ibrahim Shukri, who will run in his home town of Shirbin, a constituency he has represented since 1949; Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, who will run in Cairo's Heliopolis Constituency; Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, who will run in Cairo's al-Duqqi area; Brotherhood official Sayf al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, who will run in Cairo's al-Darb al-Ahmar District; Lawyer and Brotherhood official Mukhtar Nuh, who will run in Cairo's al-Matariyah District; AL-AHRAR Chief Editor Mustafa Bakri, who will run in Cairo's Hulwan District; and Coptic figure Jamal As'ad 'Abd-al-Malak, who will run in Cairo.

On pages 6 and 7 the paper publishes election-related reports and news of the problems facing people in some areas of Upper Egypt and the Delta under the "corrupt government," including food shortages, a lack of infrastructure, and "scandals" by the ruling party, and the Labor Party's preparations for the elections.

On page 2 an approximately 600-word report by Yusuf Sa'd notes that the Labor Party secretary general has started campaigning in his Heliopolis constituency "amid overwhelming popular support and a warm reception" by the people there. Husayn's tour included a visit to a local mosque, a vegetable market, and shops, where he was cheered by shopowners and passers-by, both Muslims and Christians.

On page 4 some Labor Party and Islamic Alliance candidates are profiled. The candidates' academic and professional background, contributions, and public work are detailed. Among the candidates profiled is 'Abd-al-Rahman Lutfi, the Labor Party's secretary in Mallawi, al-Minya. A report by Subhi Buhayri notes that while discussing the concerns of the families of the detainees in his "afflicted" town on 29 September he was arrested and taken to an unspecified location that remains "unknown as of the time of writing." The report notes that Lutfi was jailed for three years in 1981 in connection with the al-Jihad Organization case.

PROFESSOR VIEWS FREEDOMS, SHURA UNDER SHARI'AH

Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Duhaym, engineering professor and deputy head of the Asyut University Teaching Staff Club, writes an approximately 600-word article entitled "Freedoms and the Elections" on page

5. Duhaym explains that freedoms and the shura, or consultation, are among the pillars of Islamic shari'ah and that election is one form of shura and an avenue for expressing the people's will to choose their rulers. He adds that, accordingly, elections and freedoms are the most important pillars for political reform, which is one of the mainstays of a nation's progress. Duhaym points out that governments that have no desire to follow the path of "guidance and reform" survive on "oppression" and the "assassination" of public freedoms and "thrive" on random arrests and the fabrication of charges. Such governments, he argues, refuse to provide any real guarantees for fair elections, which causes acute frustration among the voters and increases passivity. He notes that torture, random arrests, and the violation of freedoms are all forbidden by shari'ah. He adds: To ensure the fairness of the election, it must be under full judicial supervision and candidates must be given equal opportunities in the media to air their opinions. Concluding, Duhaym adds: "This path, the path of correctness, renaissance, and development, is pursued by everyone who is sincere to his religion, homeland, and nation. Following the opposite path constitutes treason against religion, the nation, and the homeland."

MUBARAK'S COMMENTS ON BROTHERHOOD TRIAL DENOUNCED

In an approximately 800-word article on page 1 entitled "On the President's Orders, a Conviction by the Military Court," Dr. al-Shafi'i Muhammad Bashir, law professor at al-Mansurah University and a regular writer in AL-SHA'B, comments on President Mubarak's remarks to LE FIGARO appearing in the 27 September issue of AL-AHRAM. Dr. Bashir notes that the "headlines on the first page of AL-AHRAM carry a military order from the supreme commander of the Armed Forces to the military judiciary trying the Muslim Brothers to pass a verdict that is in line with the president's belief in conviction." Quoting Mubarak's remarks that the "Brothers have practiced sabotage and that their referral to the military judiciary was meant to speed up the verdict," Dr. Bashir notes that the only thing missing from Mubarak's remarks is the word "conviction." He points out that the "Supreme commander of the Armed Forces" has passed a guilty verdict against Brotherhood figures being tried before a military court, while this court is still examining the case. He explains that this puts the court in an "embarrassing" situation, for if the judges pronounce the defendants not guilty this would contradict the opinion of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, under whose authority the military judiciary falls. Dr. Bashir notes that the president's remarks reveal a "premeditated will to pass military verdicts" against leading Brotherhood figures, which is

a flagrant violation of Article 73 of the Constitution, which the president vowed to respect. He explains that the military court is neither "independent" nor "neutral," as evidenced by the president's "pressure" in his remarks. And Mubarak's reference that the brothers have practiced "sabotage" is sufficient "indictment" for the court to pronounce them guilty. This, he adds, would send a message to the public at home and abroad that the military trial was only a "formality" to convict public and popular personalities previously elected in the People's Assembly and who "need to be kept away from the coming elections so that they may not compete with candidates from the president's party."

NO EVIDENCE SUBMITTED AT BROTHERHOOD MILITARY TRIAL

An approximately 400-word report by Qutb al-'Arabi and Khalid Yunus on page 1 notes that in its session on 30 September the military court trying the Brotherhood figures adjourned until 14 October to give time for the submission of case documents and transcripts of computer disks and tapes. The report notes that during the session the defense lawyers revealed that the prosecutors had not submitted any material evidence, lists of witnesses, or transcripts of tapes and computer disks allegedly seized with the defendants, something that invalidates the whole trial. The defense called for the swift release of all the detainees, adding that their detention "disturbs" public feelings, as evidenced by the defense team grouping representatives of all nationalist forces, including Coptic lawyers.

LABOR PARTY MEMBERS ARRESTED; PREACHER BANNED

An unattributed 250-word report on page 1 notes that in the past few days security men arrested 65 members of the Labor Party in the Governorates of al-Gharbiyah and al-Daqahliyah as part of the "government's policy to shackle the opposition forces, particularly with the elections approaching." The report adds that State Security Intelligence Forces arrested scores of people of various inclinations on 27 September in some areas of al-Jizah, including university students from the "Islamic Group" and other nonaffiliated citizens. The report quotes "security sources" saying that the arrests were "random" and with no specific targets, although security leaders indicate that they are closely related to the forthcoming elections and the security agencies' desire to "gather as much information on election standings as possible."

An approximately 70-word unattributed report on the same page notes that Dr. Ahmad Mahmud Karimah, imam of the Asad Bin-al-Furat Mosque in al-Duqqi, has been banned from delivering his Friday sermon

and weekly lessons by al-Awqaf Directorate in al-Jizah for his "warnings against the secular threat and his defense of al-Azhar, particularly its recent stances on the population conference, circumcision, and its statement prohibiting economic dealings with the Jews."

ISLAMIST STUDENTS, TEACHERS HARASSED

An unattributed 150-word report on page 2 states that the security agencies have "declared war" against Islamists in the al-Fayyum and Bani Suwayf Universities, where Islamists and male and female students are being "harassed." The report adds that female students covering their faces are banned from entering their colleges and Islamist students are threatened with detention if they discuss the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

An approximately 100-word report by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on the same page notes that in Damietta 46 teachers belonging to the "Islamic current" have been removed from their posts and given administrative work as part of the policy of "striking at the Islamic current."

BAN ON OUTDOOR ELECTION RALLIES DENOUNCED

In an approximately 2,000-word report on page 3, 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad and 'Amr Salman note that the opposition candidates have been surprised by the interior minister's decision banning outdoor election rallies and the Cairo governor's decision prohibiting election posters and signs without the approval of the governor. The report adds that in the meantime government meetings and public ceremonies have turned into forums for "outright" campaigning for the government's candidates, whose pictures are given prominence in the government press and media. Labor Party President Ibrahim Shukri, while backing the need to regulate campaigning, notes that this excuse could be manipulated to "harass" the opposition candidates in particular. He points out that in view of the broad influence of the ruling party in government agencies and offices, its candidates will have a chance to hold rallies and meetings in other government-controlled places, such as schools and youth centers, which are inaccessible to the opposition.

For his part, Brotherhood official spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi notes that the ban on outdoor rallies stems from the emergency law, which gives the government broad powers. The purpose of this ban, he adds, is to prevent any popular activity and to "kill" any public awareness of the legislative elections. He points out that the normal thing is to give candidates access to the media, permit leaflets and posters, allow public meetings, and facilitate the candidates' movements, but all this is rejected. He adds: "Had we been living in

a real democracy all this would have changed and the opposite would have been true."

Wafd Assistant Secretary General Dr. al-Disuqi Abazah says he believes it is inconceivable to hold free and fair elections in an atmosphere of "oppression." Enough evidence of this "corrupt atmosphere," he adds, is the information minister's statement that he will "kindly" give political parties 80 minutes of airtime on one television channel, while his ruling party controls nine television channels that do not stop campaigning for the National Democratic Party and its ministers. This inequality, he notes, undermines the fairness of the elections and refutes claims about the neutrality of government agencies.

MURDER OF EGYPTIAN POW'S VIEWED

Ahmad Abu-al-Khayr, a former ambassador and expert in international law, writes on the legal aspect of the murder of Egyptian POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars with Israel in an approximately 2,500-word article. He notes that the killing of Egyptian POW's by Israeli soldiers must not be treated lightly. The Egyptian Government, he notes, must use the Egyptians' backing and anger over the issue to pressure Israel by every means to conduct "serious investigations" involving every official responsible for this "unforgivable" crime. He notes that it would be extremely humiliating for this issue to go unpunished, since it concerns the dignity of the Egyptian soldier. He points out that under the Geneva Convention, Israel is obliged to hand down "effective punitive measures" against those responsible for the crime, which does not lapse under the Statute of Limitations, as Israel claims. He adds that if Israel fails to put the perpetrators on trial, Egypt could hold the trial in Egypt, even in absentia, should Israel refuse to hand over the suspects. He explains that Israel is legally responsible, under the Convention, to proceed with the trial of the suspects. Failing to do so would give Egypt the right to complain to the Security Council and demand an international tribunal to try the Israeli "war criminals."

In a related, approximately 800-word, article on page 4, Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh, assistant secretary general of the Arab Doctors Union, writes that the Serbs' killing of Muslims in the Sarajevo market and the Israelis' killing of Egyptian POW's in Sinai are motivated by the same goal, namely, "destroying" Islam and "annihilating" Muslims. Asserting that hatred of Muslims is always proportionate to the rise of "Islamic awakening" in the Islamic world, he points out that Muslims will never sit idly in the face of the "bloodbaths" created by the Zionists and their Western allies. He adds: "The peoples of the Islamic world are

capable, God willing, of burning the ground under the feet of those unjust people who have no consideration for believers."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 3 Oct NC0710201895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 3 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Shaykh al-Ghazali: I Am Not Egypt's Khomeyni
2. U.S. Objection to Seminar on Jerusalem Denounced
3. Opposition to Palestinian-Israeli Accord Healthy Phenomenon
4. Writer's Claim of Islam's Mistreatment of Prisoners Assailed
5. Elections Viewed From Islamic Perspective
6. Islamic Businessmen Urge Common Islamic Market
7. Law on Adultery Violates Islamic Shari'ah

SHAYKH AL-GHAZALI: I AM NOT EGYPT'S KHOMEYNI

The "text" of an approximately 2,500-word interview with Islamic scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, by al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf and Mustafa Yasin, is published on pages 8-9. The interview was conducted in al-Ghazali's house, but its date is not specified. Al-Ghazali answers questions about the Koran, dialogue between religions, rapprochement between Islamic sects, reported Israeli killing of Egyptian prisoners of war, and efforts to establish a Middle East market.

Asked of what use are the many conferences and meetings on dialogue between religions, of which he is a keen supporter, al-Ghazali says: "Islam is always accused of being fanatic. In such conferences and dialogues, the human aspect of Islam — its flexibility, moderation, and tolerance for other religions — is stressed." Al-Ghazali explains that Islam is not an Arab movement or a new religion revealed by God in the Arabic language, but a summation of all the divine revelations that preceded it. The Koran incorporates all divine religions, and we need the dialogue to explain our position toward the other religions, he says. Citing a Koranic verse, he says it was Islam that invented religious freedom.

Al-Ghazali then asks himself: If the Koran came up with nothing new and was a compilation of previous divine revelations, why was it revealed? The answer, he says, is this: First, the followers of the original divine books

betrayed them and failed to go by their texts. Second, there was a distortion of the texts themselves.

Al-Ghazali adds: "I said this to the correspondent of the British newspaper THE GUARDIAN when he came to see me in my house. But regrettably, he was dishonest because he wrote: I met Egypt's Khomeyni. I am not Egypt's Khomeyni; this is a false description."

Al-Ghazali refutes claims that Islam restricts women's freedom. He says Islam advocates a women's decency and rejects adultery, homosexuality, and sexual promiscuity. On relations between Islamic sects, especially the Sunnis and the Shiites, al-Ghazali says the differences are highlighted and deepened only by ignorant, non-religious, and unethical groups. These people must be disciplined and punished because they create division and separation, he says. He says rapprochement with the Shiites is possible. We have the same Koran, and issues of disagreement can be treated wisely, he says.

Asked about recent revelations that Israel killed Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars, al-Ghazali says: "We must expose those inhuman and unethical crimes and ask for international investigation. Our Armed Forces are a trust in the hands of the state and the leaders, and their rights must not be relinquished."

On preparations for a new Middle East market to include Israel, Shaykh al-Ghazali says: "What I know is that the term 'Middle East' was introduced to replace the Arab League. The aim is to abolish the Arab League and include Israel in any group under the name of the Mediterranean or the Middle East group." He adds: "We should better look for a common Arab or Islamic market. We are in dire need for this because this is the alphabet of our religion. If this economic grouping is necessary, the Arab and Islamic countries must be careful about their own and joint interests."

U.S. OBJECTION TO SEMINAR ON JERUSALEM DENOUNCED

A 700-word report by Tariq 'Abdallah on page 20 says Palestinian and Arab League officials have denounced a U.S. refusal to hold a seminar on Jerusalem in Washington at a time when Israel is celebrating the 3d millennium of the declaration of Jerusalem as a capital of the Jewish kingdom. The report says the U.S. Administration, "suddenly and without prior warning," objected to holding the second seminar on Jerusalem, organized by the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], in Washington this month, as was originally scheduled. The reporter cites Sa'id Kamal, assistant Arab League secretary general for Palestinian affairs, as saying that the Arab League and the OIC will hold the seminar in another part of the

world. The report says 86 intellectuals, academicians, and Muslim and Christian men of religion were invited to the seminar "which aimed to support the peace process and helping the negotiators with the ideas that will be raised". Palestinian official Faysal al-Husayni is cited as saying that the U.S. objection to holding the seminar is "an American attempt to obstruct efforts seeking to support the steadfastness of Palestinians as they endeavor to establish east Jerusalem as the capital of their state." Arab League Secretary General 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid is cited as saying that Israel's claims concerning Jerusalem constitute historical forgery. He praises the European Union countries for boycotting Israel's celebration of the Jerusalem anniversary.

OPPOSITION TO PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI ACCORD HEALTHY PHENOMENON

Columnist Majdi Salim writes a 500-word article on page 10 in which he discusses the latest Palestinian-Israeli agreement, noting that it was welcomed by some sides and opposed by others. He maintains that opposition to the agreement by some Arab parties "is a healthy and very important phenomenon". This opposition, he explains, "will play a major role in the next stages of the peace process. It will constitute a tremendous pressure that will help [the Palestinians] regain as much as possible of the usurped rights, and firmly confront Israel's intransigence." The writer also tells Israel that "the blood of the martyr POW's, who were treacherously killed in the 1956 and 1967 wars, will remain before our eyes as a proof of Jewish treachery, which abides by no agreement or treaty."

WRITER'S CLAIM OF ISLAM'S MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS ASSAILED

The newspaper continues its campaign against an article appearing in the 20 September issue of the leftist AL-AHALI weekly in which the writer reportedly claimed that Prophet Muhammad ordered the execution of Jewish prisoners of war in Medina. In an approximately 3,500-word report on pages 12-13, correspondents Muna 'Abd-al-Na'im, Mamduh al-'Ashri, Salah 'Abd-al-Mu'ti, Halah al-Sayyid, and Iman Mazru' ask Islamic ulema, men of religion, and ordinary citizens what they think of claims that Islam mistreated prisoners of war and what they think of revelations that Israel killed Egyptian POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars. They all maintain that Islam protects prisoners and treats them well. They cite incidents and historical stories to prove this, and they say the writer who tried to cast doubt on Islam's good treatment of prisoners is ignorant of Islam's principles and history. They explain that the Jews referred to in AL-AHALI article were not really prisoners of war, but allies who betrayed Muslims at the time

of war. Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Bari, head of al-Azhar Ulema Front, is cited as saying that "the one who encroaches upon the most honorable of God's creation [Prophet Muhammad] under any influence is actually selling out his religion, honor, and sanctities." He adds: "What that writer said constitutes a slander of the prophet's honor and an extreme abuse of Islam." Several ordinary citizens interviewed in the street are cited as rejecting any attempt to negatively influence the issue of Egyptian POW's, viewing such an attempt as "a high treason that necessitates punishment, and an unforgivable crime against the people of Egypt." They say Israel's killing of Egyptian POW's is the issue of every Egyptian and must be followed up.

ELECTIONS VIEWED FROM ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

In a 1,200-word report on page 14, Muhammad al-Abnudi, Tariq 'Abdallah, and Mahmud 'Ushb cite some professors and men of religion discussing the upcoming People's Assembly elections from an Islamic perspective. They say candidates must be able to deliver on their promises during the election campaign so as not to be viewed by Islam as hypocrites. They maintain that buying votes is considered a crime in Islam, and they say candidates must be fair, honest, and knowledgeable. They say citizens must cast their votes and elect the right candidates because they will be asked about it in the day of judgment. Dr. Nash'at 'Abd-al-Jawad, a professor in al-Azhar university, explains that Islam left it for Muslims to decide the form and system of government and representation that suit them. "Hence," he says, "choosing people's representatives in this way is in line with the shari'ah and does not conflict with Islam's rules and principles. It is in keeping with Islam's general principles provided that its fairness and integrity are guaranteed, and the opinion of voters is respected."

ISLAMIC BUSINESSMEN URGE COMMON ISLAMIC MARKET

In a 1,200-word report on page 21, Mustafa Yasin gives an account of a three-day conference in Cairo for more than 1,200 investors and businessmen representing 28 Islamic states and organizations. He says the participants recommended a speedy establishment of a common Islamic market "to preserve Islamic identity and culture under the shadow of serious economic challenges threatening the Islamic world". Egypt's Mufti Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi and other speakers are cited as urging cooperation among the Islamic countries to serve the Islamic nation and reduce dependence on the foreign world. They stress that the Islamic culture is capable of establishing an industrial base on the standards of the contemporary age.

—In a 600-word article on page 24, Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf welcomes the Islamic public sector's conference in Cairo and hopes it will play an effective role in achieving Islamic economic unity.

LAW ON ADULTERY VIOLATES ISLAMIC SHARI'AH

A 2,500-word report by Layla Husni on pages 16-17 discusses adultery and how the penal code in Egypt treats this case. The writer asks lawmen and religious figures about the issue. They explain how the law differentiates between an adulterer and an adulteress, favoring men and imposing harsher punishments on women. The men of religion maintain that the law violates the Islamic shari'ah, which decides similar punishment for both sexes. Islamic professor Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Shahin says: "It is high time we implemented God's shari'ah in our laws and changed those of them which contradict Islam."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Discusses Autonomy Expansion Agreement
AU1010170295 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German
9 Oct 95 pp 159-160

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Volkhard Windfuhr "on his flight back from Washington"; date not given: "A Place on the Map"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Windfuhr] Mr. President, many Palestinians have disapproved rather than applauded the agreement on the expanded Palestinian autonomy. Are you disappointed about that?

['Arafat] I will not be discouraged. The long overdue agreement which Yitzhaq Rabin and I signed in Washington is "the" breakthrough on our way toward peace. This agreement will end the terrible suffering of the Palestinians; our lives will no longer be determined by expulsion, flight, expropriation, and injustice. Together with our Jewish cousins, we have finally succeeded in concluding the peace of the brave.

[Windfuhr] Yet the time of occupation is far from over.

['Arafat] The most important thing is that we have secured the Palestinian people a place on the map of the Middle East. Just remember that until a few years ago Israel's heads of state disputed the existence of a Palestinian nation. What I signed in Washington is tantamount to the birth certificate of the state of Palestine.

[Windfuhr] Many Israelis do not see it that way. And there are also Palestinians who are uneasy about Israel continuing to control 70 percent of the West Bank.

[Arafat] That is nonsense. In a few months we will control over 90 percent of the West Bank; according to the agreement, there will be no obstructions in road traffic between the cities that are to be cleared by the Israeli troops.

[Windfuhr] For the time being, the territory that you are to control is something of a patchwork. Your opponents say that you have accepted being fobbed off with separate enclaves that can be sealed off by the Israelis any time.

[Arafat] Very soon there will be no enclaves, but occupation-free settlement centers that will grow together to form a geographical unity within a few months. Freedom of movement for persons and goods has been laid down. I would never have contented myself with less, as the enormous reconstruction work that we are facing is inconceivable without free traffic.

[Windfuhr] Does that mean that you are satisfied?

[Arafat] Of course, the agreement has many shortcomings. But I swear that we have achieved the best we could do. We are at the beginning of a long process that will need a lot of endurance. The final status of Jerusalem and the future of the Jewish settlements, the right of return for expellees and refugees, and the laying down of the final borders are issues that will not be solved until the third stage of the peace talks.

[Windfuhr] Radical Israelis and Palestinians are forming an unholy alliance of peace opponents. Can violent perpetrators still sabotage the agreement?

[Arafat] We would not get anywhere, if we listened to the irreconcilable preachers of hatred on both sides. Any improvement in relations between Palestinians and Israelis strengthens the camp of those who oppose the people who are constantly clinging to the past. Reconciliation cannot be interpreted as capitulation, peace as submission, like those incorrigible ones do. I am encouraged every day, also by the Israeli side, by courageous intellectuals, professional organizations, and even political groups.

[Windfuhr] On the other hand, you have to deal with 140,000 Jewish settlers, who do not want to give up the idea of a greater Israel.

[Arafat] The problems with the settlers will not be solved in this stage. But I expect the Israeli Government to observe the agreement strictly and to prevent settlers from violating the law. Our security forces will not hesitate to put Israeli saboteurs of peace in their place.

[Windfuhr] Some 400 Jewish settlers still remain in the center of the Palestinian city of Hebron. Can you

imagine Jewish settlements existing in a Palestinian state?

[Arafat] Jewish settlers who observe our laws and renounce violence are not enemies, not even in Hebron. Apart from that, I would like to point out that of the 4,000 Jewish settlers who lived in the Gaza Strip only 200 have stayed after their neighborhoods were surrounded by Palestinian-controlled areas.

[Windfuhr] How are you going to cope with the extremists in your own camp?

[Arafat] What applies to the Jewish settlers also applies to all those who oppose the agreement: Those who only voice their opinion, however uncomfortable it may be, need not be afraid. But anyone who mistakes freedom of opinion for terrorist activity will feel the full severity of the law.

[Windfuhr] You tried that in Gaza, but you have not been able to stop terrorism against Israel for good.

[Arafat] When I came to Gaza in 1994, they said it would become a second Afghanistan. Instead, we have law and order.

[Windfuhr] Your opponents have accused you of establishing an autocratic regime with random arrests and state security courts.

[Arafat] All that talk about the so-called dirigism of the PLO will soon prove to be unfair propaganda. In a few months we will have internationally controlled general elections in the Palestine territories. Everyone can participate, rightists, leftists, as well as Hamas members and Arab nationalists. I want a democratic Palestine.

[Windfuhr] Governed by you?

[Arafat] I am not concerned about myself, but about the future of my people. I will yield to the voters' decision.

[Windfuhr] An important partner to the peace is still missing: Syria. Why is President Hafiz al-Asad refusing to support you?

[Arafat] To keep him informed, I have given my brother President al-Asad a detailed report of our negotiations. A permanent peace in the Middle East must include a peace agreement with Syria and Lebanon. That is why I keep reminding Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that an agreement must be reached with Syria on the return of Golan as soon as possible.

[Windfuhr] Most Palestinians have been waiting for the peace dividend in vain; their living conditions have not improved very much. Is this disappointment not a big danger for peace?

[Arafat] We have waited for the promised financial assistance in vain; Israel's sealing off of the Gaza Strip has caused our employees to lose \$6 million every day. That must change very quickly.

[Windfuhr] Why have wealthy Palestinians contributed so little to helping you? Nor have the hoped-for credits of the Gulf monarchies arrived.

[Arafat] The Arab brother states are helping us already. The fact that the Palestinian investors have hesitated has something to do with the insecure prospects for yields, which are again determined by the political situation. And this has changed decisively now: Since 28 September Palestine has not only consisted of the overcrowded Gaza Strip and the small town of Jericho, but of the entire West Bank, where a functioning administration will be established.

[Windfuhr] That can take years. If you do not want the confidence in peace to disappear, you will have to present specific improvements quickly.

[Arafat] Numerous Palestinian industrialists from all over the world have contacted me during the past few days, who want to help with establishing a state. Big sums of money have been promised for Palestine. With a bit of luck, our country will experience a real boom in the not too distant future.

[Windfuhr] Israel sticks to the inseparable sovereignty over all of Jerusalem. Could the dispute over the Holy City make the entire peace collapse?

[Arafat] Being a realist, I expect that the problem can be solved more easily, if the putting into practice of the Washington agreement progresses without any major problems. Israelis and Palestinians must realize that peaceful co-existence is possible — even in Jerusalem. That does not require a partition, a Berlin Wall, as some people suspect. I am thinking of a solution, like the one that Italy has found with the Vatican, the most influential state in the world.

[Windfuhr] With the autonomous region becoming bigger, you no longer have to have your residence in overcrowded Gaza. When will you move to Nablus, Ramallah, or Hebron?

[Arafat] Every other Palestinian city would remain a temporary residence until I move to our capital Jerusalem.

[Windfuhr] Mr. President, thank you for the interview.

'Arafat on Self-Rule, Mubarak, 'Procrastination'
NC1110084595 *Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic*
0610 GMT 11 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Brothers, Egypt and the Arab world have witnessed achievements spanning the 14 years of President Mubarak's rule. Most prominent of these is the progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track, which has witnessed many political and diplomatic victories. We have with us on the phone his excellency President Yasir 'Arafat. Mr. President, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Arafat] Welcome to you.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. President, as we celebrate the 14th anniversary of President Mubarak's assumption of power, what do you have to say on this anniversary?

[Arafat] First, congratulations to President Husni Mubarak on this blessed and good anniversary. I congratulate him on my behalf, on behalf of the Palestinian people, and on behalf of the Arab nation. Mubarak has always proved he is a father, not only of the Egyptian people, but also of all sincere strugglers in the region. He has a special place in the hearts and minds of our Palestinian people, who will always remember his brave and practical stances on our side in the most difficult conditions and the most delicate moments. I tell him: May you be blessed, President Mubarak.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. President, after these sincere words expressing your feelings for your brother President Mubarak, what do you hope to get from President Mubarak in the coming phase and from Egyptian diplomacy led by President Mubarak?

[Arafat] With his farsighted policy, President Mubarak has always stuck to basic principles, not only with regard to the Egyptian people, but also with regard to Palestine and the whole Arab nation. President Mubarak's policy has been successful, not only on the Egyptian and regional levels, but also on the international level. He is a sincere and loyal leader who does not utter empty words but always speaks sincerely with a heart full of faith, sincerity, and loyalty. I must say that our Palestinian people will always remember President Mubarak's stances, especially his support for the peace process on the Lebanese, Syrian, Jordanian, and Palestinian tracks. We will remain grateful to him.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. President, regarding the Taba accord, which you signed in Washington, what has been implemented so far?

[Arafat] Regrettably, there is Israeli procrastination. I have informed President Mubarak of this procrastination. Implementation was supposed to start 10 days after the signing of the accord but we have discovered a deliberate Israeli attempt to delay the withdrawal from the first Palestinian town until 18 November, that is, 53 days after the signing of the agreement. If anything, this indicates an Israeli attempt not to scrupulously implement the agreement signed in Washington.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] What are Israel's excuses?

[Arafat] Regrettably, there are no excuses. There is just procrastination.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] What about the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees held in Israeli prisons?

[Arafat] During a meeting with President Mubarak in Alexandria, President Mubarak phoned President Weizman and secured from him a promise in front of us [Arafat and Peres] that he will release all female prisoners and detainees. Regrettably, we now hear that not all female prisoners will be released. This will harm the whole release process. The agreement stipulates that all detainees under 15 years and over 50 and all sick detainees will be released.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Did you discuss this topic during your meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres?

[Arafat] We discussed this topic freely and clearly. But there is a tendency by some Israeli generals to delay the implementation of the agreement.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] President 'Arafat, a Palestinian-Israeli workshop was held in Jerusalem on establishing joint development projects in the self-rule areas. What about these meetings?

[Arafat] This was an academic symposium, no more, no less. It has no relationship with reality or the course of events.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] President 'Arafat, it is clear that Israel continues to pursue delaying tactics in the peace process or in the implementation of the agreements with you. What do you have to say to the Palestinian people in this delicate phase?

[Arafat] I want to tell them: "And do thou be patient, for thy patience is but from God; nor grieve over them: And distress not thyself because of their plots." [Koranic verse]

[Abd-al-'Aziz] What are the Palestinian preparations for the elections?

[Arafat] The delay in the implementation of the agreement will harm the election process and the whole peace process.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] What about the participation of the Palestinian opposition in the elections?

[Arafat] We are a democratic society. We welcome everybody to actively and constructively participate in the election process.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] President 'Arafat. We thank you very much and always welcome you on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Arafat] Congratulations to blessed President Husni Mubarak.

'Arafat Views Future Peace Talks

NC0810175195 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic
1520 GMT 8 Oct 95

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Muhammad Zayid; place and date not given; from the "Meeting with the Brothers" program; monitored in progress]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Zayid] Agreement has been reached on the redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank, the holding of elections, and extension of the Palestinian National Authority's base. It is said that this extension covers only 37 percent of the land. I am saying this so as to clarify the wrong ideas that some people have. They believe that you have relinquished the remaining 63 percent of the land and are content with 37 percent. Is this true?

[Arafat] Let us first take this 37 percent. The map began with 5.6 percent and reached 31.2 percent. This percentage covers the populated areas, that is cities, towns, villages, and hamlets. These are the A and B lists. That's what the agreement is about. Agreement on and the handing over of the other areas will be concluded in three stages. These stages were supposed to end on 4 May, but let me say here that hopes and reality do differ. The Israelis will be preoccupied with their elections in 1996. Like us, the parties will be outbidding each other and such outbidding is natural during elections. This is democracy. We therefore agreed that we will receive the remaining areas in three stages that will encompass three successive periods of six months each, that is within a period of one and a half years, with the first stage starting six months after the first withdrawal. This means that we will receive the remaining areas — the unpopulated areas such as our forests and hills — by the end of February 1997.

[Zayid] What percentage will that be Mr. President?

[Arafat] We will get back 91 percent.

[Zayid] Then it will be the Jerusalem issue that remains?

[Arafat] The settlements and Jerusalem issue will then remain. They are the nine percent. Talks on the final stage will start on 4 May 1996 and will involve four principal issues: Jerusalem, the settlements, the old [1948] refugees — because these refugees are an important part of the issue — and the final borders. A quadripartite Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli committee was formed to discuss the issue of the new [1967] refugees, which we call the displaced persons. It held four meetings and agreed on the definition of a displaced person as one who carried the West Bank and Gaza Strip identity card on 4 June 1967, that is before the 1967 aggression. The displaced persons can start to return. There is now a disagreement between us and the Israelis over their number. The Egyptians, Jordanians, and Palestinians estimate their number at around 860,000 while the Israelis say that they are a third of this number.

[Zayid] This is to be expected from them?

[Arafat] Yes, this is something expected. But we have documents and the United Nations and my brothers here in Egypt and Jordan have documents too. We have international, Egyptian, and Jordanian documents. Let the Israelis present their documents. [passage omitted]

[Zayid] Mr. President, what would you like to tell some Palestinian factions—I must indeed call them fraternal factions because that's what they are—who....

[Arafat, interrupting] Oh, oh, they are my brothers.

[Zayid, continuing] ...who adopt some hardline positions? Some of them exaggeratedly claim that Palestinian rights are not being faithfully pursued. I don't want to use the term they use...

[Arafat] No, say it. It is well known. I want to say this: First of all we have a democratic system and everyone has the right to say what he wants. I base my response on a saying of the [second Muslim prophet] 'Umar Bin al-Khattab. He said: May God's blessing be with him who can rectify 'Umar's errors.

[Zayid] Then those who want to rectify errors are welcome.

[Arafat] They are most welcome. I wish to say this, however. Have I prevented anyone from recapturing Jerusalem? Have I prevented their tanks, aircraft, or armies from reaching Jerusalem?

[Zayid] Furthermore, must struggle be only military?

[Arafat] I wish to add something. I and several other brothers were the ones who fired the first bullet in 1965. There is no struggle that is not followed by negotiations.

[Zayid] No one can quarrel with this contention. [passage omitted]

[Arafat] There is no alternative to negotiations. Let me add that negotiations depend on the balance of power. We must understand that we are living in a new world order that came into being after the Soviet Union collapsed. I address all the masses of our Arab nation. We must hasten to rebuild Arab solidarity, cooperation, and unity. We must say it clearly and frankly: We are confronting a new world order. [passage omitted] I wish to remind you and remind all the brothers who are listening to us now. In 1897 a Zionist conference was held in Basel, Switzerland. It declared that it planned to take control of a land without people and give it to a nation without a homeland. When people asked [former Israeli prime minister] Golda Meir about the Palestinian people's rights, she used to say: Where are the Palestinians? I am a Palestinian.

She used to be dismayed by the high Palestinian birthrate. After our long struggle, we have now succeeded in reaching an agreement. When we went to the Madrid conference, we did not go alone. I did not go to that conference by my decision alone. I was implementing a resolution adopted by the Palestine National Council in Algiers in 1991 in the wake of the Bush initiative. We agreed at that time to go to Madrid in a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. Isn't this right?

[Zayid] This is true.

[Arafat] Isn't it a historical fact? We have now succeeded in establishing the Palestinian nation on the Middle East's political and geographical map. The Palestinians are now in their own land. Not all their land but, as I told you....

[Zayid, interrupting] the part of their land that has been liberated.

[Arafat] Yes, the part which we have succeeded in regaining by our long struggle and the hard negotiating we have done since the Madrid conference. This is very important: Differences in political views should not spoil our brotherly relations. I might disagree with your views but I am willing to fight for your right to speak your mind, as Voltaire said. Therefore I call on all the Palestinians to come and build the Palestinian state with us, now that the cornerstone of this state has been laid.

'Arafat Adviser Kanafani on Implementing Accord
JN0910203095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1240 GMT 9 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and spokesman; place not given; by correspondent 'Arif Salim in the studio; from the "Today's Events" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salim] Good evening, Marwan.

[Kanafani] Good evening.

[Salim] Brother Marwan: We are now at the threshold of a new Palestinian phase, the phase of translating agreements on the ground. You know that we had a bitter experience in those long, painstaking negotiations which yielded the Taba agreement.

Will we face the same suffering and bitterness when this agreement is implemented, especially in view of the Israeli procrastination regarding the release of Palestinian female prisoners?

[Kanafani] Regrettably, I agree with you that we may face such procrastination regarding implementation. As you know, this procrastination is unacceptable, unjustified, and illegal, and does not conform to the agreement.

We know that the cause of peace requires making difficult decisions, and that a leadership is responsible for making and implementing such decisions. In the name of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian National Authority, brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] committed himself to decisions which were hard for him and for us all.

I do not believe that it is necessary to hold further negotiations in order to begin the implementation. I am not very optimistic about the Israeli Government's desire, capability, or enthusiasm about beginning a speedy implementation.

[Salim] President Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Since you are close to the president, what was your impression of the results of this meeting and the possibilities of implementing the agreement on the ground?

[Kanafani] The agreement will undoubtedly be implemented. We have no doubts that it will be implemented. We actually insist on implementing it in full and not in a selective way. There is a commitment and a pledge by both sides to take certain measures, so both sides should fulfill their commitments.

Let us, for example, discuss the female prisoners issue which we all know. The agreement provides for releas-

ing all female prisoners without any exception. President 'Arafat and the Palestinian negotiating delegation were extremely clear and firm in this regard. You know that the detainee issue was discussed for long hours and days before the Taba agreement was signed.

We now hear remarks that some sister female prisoners will not be released. This means incomplete implementation of the agreement in letter and spirit. We insist on full implementation, and we will fulfill our commitments. Likewise, we expect the Israelis to fulfill their commitments.

[Salim] Some Palestinian female prisoners are now taking a stand. They will reject their release unless all female prisoners are released.

[Kanafani] We should understand this position within the context I have discussed. In other words, we should implement all that we agreed on in letter and spirit. This agreement includes difficult decisions—not only for them, but also for us. We are determined to fulfill our commitments, and they should fulfill their commitments, particularly regarding the detainees.

[Salim] There should also be popular solidarity and response to the just demand made by the female prisoners.

[Kanafani] Of course. This is not a good start for implementing the agreement. If there is going to be a line of thinking that calls for discrimination and exceptions, it will not make a good impression regarding a true intent to implement the agreement.

[Salim] Will the National Authority [NA] brief the co-sponsors of the peace process on this situation if Israel insists on abstaining from releasing the female prisoners?

[Kanafani] As you, I believe in quite diplomacy that is removed from the media and party and government gains. We are still carrying out our role to ensure that what we agreed upon will be implemented. Of course, this can be done through contacts with the two sponsor states, the United Nations, and all friends and parties that are capable of doing something in this regard. We have not yet lost hope that the Israeli negotiator will abide by his pledges.

[Salim] Brother Marwan, Yitzhaq Rabin said that accord implementation will face more hardships than the negotiating process.

[Kanafani] We have to admit that there are real hardships. You know, the decision to hold negotiations is not easy. I, as well as the president, expect there will be difficulties in implementation and in day-to-day matters. These difficulties exist. But if these difficulties are

the result of any party's lack of desire to honor their pledges, then the issue will be serious.

[Salim] Brother Marwan, tomorrow there will be an Israeli withdrawal from Salfit and on 11 October from Kharbata, Qabatiyah, and Yattah. What do you say on this occasion?

[Kanafani] I say the agreement is clear as it provides for withdrawal from certain areas on specific dates. I do not want to talk about this issue now. However, we demand — as the president demanded yesterday and today in his meeting with foreign envoys — that all that was agreed upon be implemented.

[Salim] How ready is the NA to assume responsibility?

[Kanafani] We are ready, willing, and capable of assuming our responsibilities. It is the NA's responsibility toward the Palestinian people and conscience to preserve the security of the homeland and citizens and to try to reconstruct the infrastructure of the Palestinian society so that it can fulfill its role. We cannot go one step backward in this respect.

[Salim] The new stage requires some sort of national cohesion. What about the Palestinian national dialogue at this stage?

[Kanafani] There is a constant Palestinian national dialogue, particularly at this stage. As we come closer to elections, the Palestinian dialogue becomes more intensive, and various Palestinian ideas are floated and exchanged. We are looking forward to the day when the Palestinian people will be able to freely elect their legitimate representatives at the Palestinian legislative council who will carry out their responsibilities toward the people. This is the beginning of the road toward creating the independent Palestinian state, society, and responsibility that is shared by voters and candidates. As the elections date draws closer, the political decision on participation and improving the experiment becomes critical and in pressing need for debate. I believe all Palestinian organizations, parties, and societies are engaged in a constant dialogue to arrive at an understanding and agreement on the forthcoming elections.

[Salim] Marwan Kanafani, thank you very much.

Officials Refuse To Facilitate Release Process

TA1110083995 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0800 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority (PA) insists on its refusal to absorb the criminal prisoners who were not released from Israeli jails yesterday, as well as the 20 Iraqi infiltrators. Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, head of the Palestinian prisoner committee,

told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Palestinians are furious about the manner in which the security and criminal prisoners were released and about President Weizman's refusal to pardon two security prisoners. Yesterday Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq and Sufyan Abu-Zayidah met with the Prison Service commissioner and the Manpower Branch deputy chief to discuss the prisoner release issue. According to 'Abd-al-Raziq, the Prison Service commissioner admitted there were hitches in the release process due to the holidays and time pressures, and asked that the Palestinians help him with the continuation of the process. As said, the Palestinians rejected the request.

Prison Service elements say that the meeting with PA representatives at the Prison Service commissioner's office was conducted in a good atmosphere, and that the two sides decided on further cooperation in preparation for the next wave of releases. It seems, though, that the release of the 84 criminal prisoners and the 20 Iraqi detainees will not be effected today. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that this issue will be resolved when the dispute over the release of the female Palestinian prisoners is settled.

Official on Lack of Israeli Coordination on Release

JN1010155195 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1400 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, said that the Israeli side does not coordinate the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees with the Palestinian side. In a statement to the Voice of Palestine a short while ago, 'Abd-al-Raziq said the occupation authorities should release the names of prisoners and detainees to discuss them as stipulated in the Taba agreement.

Official Comments on Release of Prisoners

JN1010164295 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic*
1045 GMT 10 Oct 95

[Interview with Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, official in charge of the Palestinian prisoners file, by correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid in the studio on 10 October; from the "With the Middyay Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Zayid] Mr. Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, official in charge of the Palestinian prisoners file, why do you object to releasing the detainees convicted on criminal charges who were freed today?

['Abd-al-Raziq] It is another Israeli violation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. This is because the agreement stipulates that Palestinian prisoners convicted on

criminal charges will be handed over, along with their files, to the Palestinian Authority [PA] which will examine these files and act accordingly.

At 0600 today, the media surprised us by reporting that Israel released Palestinian prisoners convicted on criminal charges. Israel does not have the right to do so.

We sent a message to the Israeli police minister 10 days ago. We requested him to hand over the Palestinian prisoners convicted on criminal charges only after we resolve the issue of Palestinian security prisoners and before the problem of female prisoners emerges. This is because we do not find it logical and respectable to resolve, at the same time, the issue of Palestinian security prisoners and the issue of Palestinian prisoners convicted on criminal charges. We do not accept this, and we informed the Israeli side about it. Regrettably, however, we now see that the Israeli side is unilaterally violating this agreement again.

[Abu-Zayid] Regarding the Palestinian detainees convicted on criminal charges, does the PA deliberately want them to remain in jail?

[Abd-al-Raziq] Yes. The agreement stipulates that the prisoners convicted on criminal charges will be handed over, after which their files will be examined on an individual basis. The PA will then make the appropriate decisions on these civil prisoners.

[Abu-Zayid] Later today, a number of Palestinian security detainees will be released from Qezi'ot and from northern Israel. Will you welcome them on their arrival at the Gaza Strip?

[Abd-al-Raziq] We will not welcome anyone. We do not believe that anyone will be released.

[Abu-Zayid] You contacted Israeli officials last night and today. You also sent messages to the states which sponsored the Taba agreement.

[Abd-al-Raziq] Yes. Yesterday and today, we sent messages to such Israeli leaders as the president, the prime minister, the foreign minister, and other ministers. We also sent messages to President Clinton, President Mubarak, King Husayn, the Russian foreign minister, the Norwegian foreign minister, and to others concerned with this issue to bring about the release of the Palestinian female prisoners as stipulated in the Oslo B agreement.

We requested them to help implement the agreement as it is. We are following up this issue. They (?Israelis) contacted us today and asked about the civil prisoners issue. We told them: Some 10 days ago, we informed

you that the civil prisoners issue will be resolved after resolving the issue of Palestinian security prisoners.

Another issue, brother Hasan, is the undertaking to be signed by prisoners. Regrettably, a short while ago I heard from the Israeli radio's second channel that a written undertaking should be signed by the Palestinian prisoners. I would like to say that there is no Palestinian-Israeli agreement on any formula for such undertakings.

'Arafat Spokesman: Israel Must Abide by Agreement

JN0910173495 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, spokesman for Yasir 'Arafat, in Gaza, by Suhayl Khuri in the studio; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Rudaynah] The meeting held between President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the Israeli foreign minister in northern Gaza two days ago was aimed at drawing up detailed and practical plans for the start of the Israeli troop withdrawal from the Palestinian cities and governorates in accordance with the agreement signed in Washington, which stipulated that withdrawal must begin 10 days after the agreement is signed and be completed within three months. The meeting aimed to draw up detailed arrangements and map sketches for this withdrawal, as well as an itinerary for the cities expected to be evacuated. The withdrawal is expected to begin with the city of Janin and end within three months. Within these three months, the Israeli Army withdrawal from the remaining six Palestinian cities and seven governorates, except for Hebron, must be completed. As for the Israeli Army withdrawal from Hebron, it will need three additional months. That is, the withdrawal of the Israeli Army troops from the seven Palestinian cities and seven governorates must be completed by March 1996. During the meeting held on 7 October, we listened to the Israeli concept of withdrawal. The Palestinian side has not endorsed this concept. The next morning, at the Security Liaison Committee border meetings, we presented our own thorough concept of troop withdrawal, demanding that withdrawal begin immediately, 10 days after the agreement is signed. The draft Israeli plan did not commit Israel to begin withdrawal 10 days after the agreement is signed. There is an Israeli attempt to put off withdrawal for some time, even though the Israelis asserted that withdrawal will be completed within three months of the signing of the agreement. This means that Israel will have completed its troop withdrawal from the six cities and seven governorates toward the end of this year.

[Khuri] Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah: What is the Palestinian position toward this issue? And how long will the coordination meetings continue?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As I have told you, the Palestinian side has stressed the need for Israel to withdraw its troops in accordance with the provisions agreed upon without any delay. The meetings by the Palestinian and Israeli military officers will continue to draw up a timetable for this withdrawal and set a date for the beginning of this withdrawal. The Palestinian forces are fully prepared to enter the West Bank, beginning with the city and Governorate of Janin. The Palestinians will take over the city and Governorate of Janin as a first step. Afterward, the Palestinians will take over the remaining cities and governorates in accordance with a specific timetable. The withdrawal from the cities and governorates is scheduled to be completed within three months. As regards the beginning of withdrawal, no specific date for this has thus far been agreed upon. This explains the failure of the meeting between 'Arafat and Peres to reach concrete results. This is because the Palestinian and Israeli views still need to be clarified.

[Khuri] Mr. Nabil: What do you have to say on the issue of prisoners, particularly female prisoners?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As you must be well aware, there is a clear provision in the agreement providing for the release of all female security prisoners immediately. During the meeting, President 'Abu-'Ammar stressed the need to comply with this provision. We learned of official and unofficial reports that the Israeli president voiced reservations on the release of some female prisoners. However, President Abu-'Ammar rejected this stand out of hand. Peres reacted by saying that the Israeli Government is committed to the agreement it signed, and recommended that the Israeli president endorse the release of all female prisoners. Nonetheless, he argued, it is the prerogative of the president to voice reservations on the release of some prisoners. Honestly, we view this as an unfavorable start. This is a violation of the agreement we have signed. We have signed an agreement with the Israeli Government; and the Israeli Government must comply with the agreement it has signed. The Palestinian demand is clear. We stress the need to implement the agreement signed in Washington. This agreement is no longer merely a Palestinian-Israeli agreement, for it was also cosigned by President Clinton, President Mubarak, His Majesty King Husayn, EU Chairman Gonzalez. This agreement has become an international instrument. Israel must honor its signature and consequently implement the provisions of the agreement, particularly with regard to the start of withdrawal and the release of all female prisoners. The military and security committees have

continued to debate the details of these two issues, which we have not yet resolved.

Al-Rujub on IDF Withdrawal, Agreement With Hamas

TA1010184395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Oct 95

[Interview with Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in the West Bank, by Fayiz 'Umar in Jericho on 10 October — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Umar] The Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] today began evacuating four representations in the West Bank. Has the Palestinian side completed all its preparations regarding redeployment in the West Bank?

[Al-Rujub] We are ready and have made the necessary preparations to promote the concept of the transfer of power from the Israeli side to the Palestinian side. Of course, recently we have raised the level of our readiness. We are ready and capable of imposing authority and the law in any areas from which the Israelis withdraw in accordance with the agreement signed in Washington.

['Umar] On the day of withdrawal from Janin and other places it is possible that confrontations might occur between youths and the IDF. How will you cope with this problem?

[Al-Rujub] The Palestinian people are looking forward to the withdrawal of the Israelis. After they pull out, the Israelis will become our neighbors. We signed a peace agreement with them. There will be no clashes or stone-throwing. On the contrary, withdrawal will take place in an orderly fashion according to the plan agreed on by the field commanders on both sides.

['Umar] How do you envisage future relations between you and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

[Al-Rujub] We are the authority. They are not entitled to behave other than an opposition in the Palestinian arena. The opposition is subject to laws and regulations that they must respect. I do not believe there will be problems if they respect the regulations. Our task today is to reach an understanding and agreement with them that ensures our society and existence and which spares us any sort of violent confrontation. I am confident of the patriotism of the brothers in Hamas.

['Umar] Col. Jibril, do you see an agreement between you and Hamas on the horizon?

[Al-Rujub] There will be an agreement between us and Hamas. I am sure of this. We will not enter any area

in the West Bank without agreement between us and Hamas.

Palestinians Ask IDF To Accelerate Redeployment

*TA1110060095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 11 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinians have called on Israel to speed up the timetable for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment from Judea and Samaria. At a meeting last night in Jericho between senior IDF and Palestinian officers, they asked that the redeployment from Janin be moved up to 2 November, instead of the 19th. The Palestinians also asked that after IDF forces pull back from West Bank towns their own police be able to enter in uniform, in the light of day. Major General Gabi Ofir, commander of the IDF forces in Judea and Samaria, invited the Palestinians to tour the bypass roads so they can see for themselves the problems before the IDF. No decision was taken at the meeting.

Celebration To Mark Withdrawal From Salfit

*JN1010194795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1400 GMT 10 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The evacuation of the Israeli occupation's civil administration headquarters in the town of Salfit was completed a short while ago. This afternoon, the Israeli occupation forces will complete their withdrawal from the town. On the telephone with us is Mu'in Shadid, our correspondent in Salfit.

[Shadid] Good evening to all our listeners. Indeed the Israeli occupation authorities have completed transferring their equipment from the civil administration headquarters in Salfit just a few minutes ago. Shortly, documents pertaining to handing over the town will be signed. The Palestinian side will be represented by Ahmad Faris, director general of the Ministry of Civilian Affairs [title as heard], the mayor of Salfit, and the Fatah organization official in Salfit. The Israeli side will be represented by (David Brill), deputy chairman of the Israeli civil administration.

Now, I am speaking to you from the civil administration headquarters, which was the former military command headquarters. A few minutes ago local, Arab, and foreign correspondents, who came to cover the withdrawal of the occupation forces from the first Palestinian town, were taken on a tour of the place and witnessed the beginning of the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo agreement.

Hundreds of Salfit residents and those of the neighboring villages are gathering in the main entrance of the building to attend the mass celebrations of the termi-

nation of the occupation of Salfit. This celebration will be held shortly, and it will be covered in coming newscasts on the Voice of Palestine. The occupation authorities will leave Salfit permanently after the signing of the necessary documents.

Hamas, PA Said Moving Toward Halt to 'Terrorism'

*TA1110063695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0500 GMT 11 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior Palestinian Authority [PA] source says that leaders of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] military wing convened at al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip the day before yesterday and discussed the possibility of reconciliation with the PA and the cessation of terrorist attacks. The source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the trend emerging in the meeting was to halt anti-Israeli terrorism temporarily so as not to disrupt the redeployment process.

Palestinians in Gaza are today waiting for the return of the delegation of Hamas political leaders who left for Sudan in order to convince the overseas Hamas leadership to move toward a reconciliation with the PA and to stop the terror. Israeli security elements say the negotiations between the Hamas political wing and the PA are known, but that nothing is known of any agreement between the PA and the Hamas military wing about a halt to terrorist attacks.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 11 October adds that "Dhiyab al-Lawh, a senior Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip, says there is no final agreement between Hamas and the PLO, but there is an understanding between the two organizations. In a radio interview, al-Lawh said that the PA hopes that the dialogue which began with Hamas half a year ago will result in Hamas' halting anti-Israel terrorist actions, as the PLO undertook vis-a-vis the Israeli Government."]

Hamas-PA 'Reconciliation' Plan Outlined

*MM1110084195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 8 Oct 95 pp 1,4*

[Report by Ilyas Nasrallah in London and Salih Qallab in Amman: "Hamas Is Given Plan for Reconciliation With Palestinian Authority"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Official Palestinian sources have stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Isma'il Haniyah, Sa'id al-Namruti, Khalid al-Hindi, and 'Abdallah al-Muhanna, Hamas representatives inside [the self-rule area], who arrived in Khartoum some days ago to hold discussions with the movement's representatives

outside [the self-rule area] on the future of relations with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], brought with them a written plan formulated after consultations between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who is currently detained in an Israeli jail.

According to these sources, the Hamas delegation carried with it to the leadership outside a promise from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat that jailed movement members would be released once an agreement is reached to start serious negotiations between the movement and the PNA.

Meanwhile, Hamas Spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah, in a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his residence in the Jordanian capital Amman, has denied that the representatives carried such a plan with them to Khartoum. Ghawshah attacked the Palestinian self-rule Authority urging it to show courage and "to send an authoritative delegation representing it to meet and negotiate with the Hamas leadership abroad."

Ghawshah said that there have been many attempts to speak on behalf of Shaykh Yasin, who is in prison and cannot respond to them. Ghawshah pointed out that Hisham Abd-al-Raziq, the PNA representative who visited Shaykh Yasin in jail in the company of Khalid al-Hindi a few weeks ago, had said in an Israeli television interview that his visit to Shaykh Yasin had failed, because the shaykh refused to agree to appeal to Hamas to end its armed operations.

Ghawshah stressed that the four Hamas members who traveled to Khartoum from Gaza "do not represent Hamas, nor did the movement authorize them to visit Khartoum" and that they had undertaken the trip on their own accord, in their capacity as movement cadres trying to mediate between us and the PNA. He added that "the movement's leaders abroad have no objection to these people expressing their views, which will be taken into consideration."

Ghawshah reaffirmed that Hamas adheres to constants and refuses to relax its struggle. He referred to the recent arrests campaign which targeted 25 of the movement's activists in Rafah in the Gaza Strip last week, saying: "The PNA must show its good intentions if it wishes to negotiate, and must free the Hamas members that it is holding prisoner."

The PNA's position, which the Hamas officials took with them to Khartoum for discussion with their colleagues abroad, contains the following 16 points:

1. To reaffirm the Palestinian people's unity and cohesion and their right to self-determination and to establish

their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

2. To prohibit internal infighting and adopt the process of democratic dialogue as a basis to reach realistic solutions that would safeguard the interests of our people and their aims, and to rally around the major national issues such as Jerusalem, the detainees, the settlements, etc....

3. To honor the PLO's commitments arising from the agreements signed with the Israeli Government. This requires an end to carrying out armed operations in and from PNA-controlled areas, or publicizing them by any means, while, however, preserving the right of everyone to express their political views of these agreements through peaceful and democratic means without hostility or defamation.

4. To reaffirm the necessity to build the institutions of Palestinian society, separate powers, and safeguard the principle of sovereignty of the law.

5. To accelerate the formulation of the parties law in order to establish the foundations of political pluralism in Palestinian society and to establish the principle of equality of all citizens.

6. To recognize the right of the brothers in Hamas to participate in the PNA institutions at all levels according to their ability.

7. To reaffirm the right to hold meetings and to celebrate national and Islamic events with the prior approval of the PNA's relevant departments.

8. The citizens' right to own personal firearms on condition that a permit to hold or carry arms is obtained from the relevant PNA departments. It is however forbidden to own or carry explosives because they constitute a threat to the security of all citizens.

9. To emphasize the service role of all local government organs, and to consider them independent administrative units, whose representatives are elected in free direct elections and which are run in accordance with local government law.

10. To reassert a free economy policy.

11. The PNA will be responsible for the protection of individuals from any faction or group who performed their national duty during the struggle years, in view of the fact that the PNA is responsible for providing security to all citizens.

12. To agree on measures aimed at promoting confidence and increasing trust, cooperation, and friendship among the people in order to consolidate and strengthen

national unity. This means putting an end to provocative communiques and sermons which harm national unity and avoiding invective and calumnies in sermons, communiques, and posters, in return for an end to preventive measures undertaken by the security organs to establish trust between all.

13. To safeguard the sanctity of mosques and places of worship and protect them from all threats against their sanctity and from being used for inappropriate purposes.

14. To form a consultative framework capable of advising the PNA on what is best for our people and their national interest.

15. To form a permanent committee to coordinate between Fatah and Hamas to discuss issues raised by all sides, in order to reach suitable solutions which would serve the general Palestinian interest.

16. This agreement will be effective from the date of its signing, will be publicized according to an agreed process, and will be deposited with the minister of justice.

It should be mentioned that the Hamas representatives' trip to Khartoum was preceded by intensive meetings and lengthy debates attended by the PNA Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim and often by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat himself, as well as the movement's Isma'il Haniyah, Sa'id al-Namruti, Khalid al-Hindi, and 'Abdallah al-Muhanna.

According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information, these four represent the moderate line in Hamas. They are the ones who are calling for changing Hamas into a political party, who consider that what will result from the peace process is a de facto situation, and who insist that there must not be any obstacles in the PNA's way.

According to some assessments, it seems that Hamas is now going through a critical gestation phase, and that there is a wide rift between the moderate tendency represented by the civilian leaders inside, the hard-line tendency represented by military leaders inside, and most leaders abroad, especially the group moving between Damascus and Tehran.

Official Palestinian circles fear that the gap between the moderate and hard-line tendencies could produce organizational structures resulting in the moderates forming a political party exercising opposition peacefully, while hard-liners will keep the name "al-Qassam Battalions" and the name Hamas itself.

'Arafat Associates Expect Agreement With Hamas

TA1010192495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Oct 95

[Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A meeting in Gaza between Yasir 'Arafat and a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] delegation may take place tonight in a bid to facilitate the dialogue for an agreement to put an end to Hamas attacks. The Hamas envoys who left for consultations in Sudan are slated to return to Gaza in the next 24 hours. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports:

[Begin Ya'ari recording] Yasir 'Arafat's associates are convinced that an agreement with Hamas on halting terrorist attacks from the Palestinian Authority [PA] area will go into effect even before the Palestinian Police enter Janin. The Hamas leadership in the West Bank has already expressed its support for such an agreement, but a draft agreement has been frozen because of the arrest of Hamas activists in Gaza.

The main clause of this agreement states that Hamas will honor the PA and the commitments it had undertaken in the framework of the agreements with Israel.

Three out of the seven members of the Hamas steering committee abroad opposed this agreement until yesterday, but pressure is being brought to bear on them by activists from the territories. This pressure is being assisted by King Husayn, who has been asked by 'Arafat to act against those in Jordan who assist Hamas.

Moreover, verbal agreements have been reached with the rejectionist organizations such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine to avoid attacks in the territories.

The Fatah leadership is also acting to prevent riots during the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the cities. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Relations Between Syria, Damascus 10 Examined

JN0910194595 Amman AL-'AHD in Arabic 9 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by the political editor]

[FBIS Translated Text] Relations between Syria and the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to the peace process are determined by the current interests of the two parties. This has occasionally manifested itself in Syria opening its doors to these factions to use them as a card in its faltering peace negotiations with Israel, or sometimes adopting a hard line toward these factions

after concluding that their presence on Syrian territory threatened Syrian interests.

There are several signs that emphasize this trend. When the doors were slammed in the faces of these opposition factions, they took refuge in Syria, where they practiced their hobby of opposing the Oslo agreement based on the hardline Syrian stance toward the peace process, which provided an opportunity for these factions to carry out their activities in Syria. However, leaders of these factions felt a Syrian change toward them since the signing of the Wadi al-'Arabah agreement between Jordan and Israel. Therefore, they began searching for new land on which to exercise their opposition in an anticipation of any Syrian change that could force them out of the Syrian game.

What is new about this subject is the leaked information on the meeting between Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and a delegation of the 10 factions where he conveyed the Syrian advice to speed up the formation of parties in the National Authority's areas, and told them that this is their sole option after the Oslo agreement became an irreversible fait accompli.

Informed diplomatic sources told AL-'AHD that the Syrian vice president was furious with the delegation, and accused the factions of embarrassing Syria without taking any serious action to abort Oslo agreement. He told the delegation that their opposition continues to be stalemated. The sources disclosed that the Syrians told the 10 factions that they were able to operate from Lebanese territory to abort the Oslo agreement, but they did not take the opportunity, and their activities were restricted to statements that put Syria in an embarrassing dilemma with the Americans.

The same sources said the delegation members were annoyed with the results of that meeting, and considered its outcome an open order to seek out another refuge to operate from.

The sources add that the factions' feeling led them to search for other countries that would receive them and allow them to stay. They contacted Iran, Cuba, and Libya, and requested to be received, but Tehran and Tripoli rejected this unequivocally for political considerations related to their relations with the United States, while Havana has put off a response.

Meanwhile, the results of meetings with Faruq Qaddumi [head of PLO Political Department], who is trying to convince the 10 factions to support him in order to improve the conditions of the Oslo agreement, were neither positive nor negative due to the hardline position of these factions toward Qaddumi's ideas. They considered these ideas an attempt to draw them into

'Arafat's trap, which he prepared in order to draw them to the Palestinian National Authority areas, because they refuse to operate as parties there.

It seems, as the sources said, that these 10 factions are trying to get out of the bottleneck in which they were placed by the Palestinian Authority and the Syrians. The Syrians fear that the United States will use these factions as a pretext to extract Syrian concessions in the negotiations with Israel.

Al-Zahhar on Political Party, PA Relations

JN1010175595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0500 GMT 10 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, Islamic Resistance Movement leader in Gaza, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz in the studio; place not given; from the "New Day" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Qazzaz] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Hamas leaders, good morning.

[Al-Zahhar] Good morning to you.

[Al-Qazzaz] In one of your statements, you spoke for the first time of building up the homeland. This is an expression that the Palestinian Authority [PA] uses. Is this a confirmation that Hamas has changed its approach to dealing with the Palestinian reality, represented in the PA?

[Al-Zahhar] Islam has come to tackle realities on the ground. As a body which seeks to apply Islam to reality, Hamas has stated from the beginning, and from the moment the PA was established, that it is ready to participate in the process of construction. However, it has some controls which govern its religiously-based political ideology. Participation in the process of construction does not mean one agrees with the Oslo agreements; this also does not necessarily mean one rejects them. This means we have to find a suitable formula that reconciles the two realities so that the requirements for construction may be placed above ideological or political differences. This calls for the establishment of a body that works to further enhance the concept of institutions. Let us view things on the ground to clarify the picture. As Palestinian people, comprising all affiliations, including Fatah and Hamas, we now need to pass a law on political parties that would meet all the requirements and that all parties will approve. Parties will then be formed. These parties have programs, ideologies, and projects and can participate in the construction operation either from within the PA, or from outside it through voluntary work or parallel services work. Thus, the construction process does not

mean restricting the issue to those who accepted Oslo and that everything else is rejected.

[Al-Qazzaz] Dr. al-Zahhar, you speak of parties. Do you support the trend to transform the Hamas Movement into a political party in the Palestinian arena?

[Al-Zahhar] I support the establishment by Hamas of a party in the areas which Israel evacuated.

[Al-Qazzaz] In your opinion, how can one build confidence between the Fatah and Hamas movements?

[Al-Zahhar] Relations between Hamas and Fatah are not that bad to need confidence-building measures. The problem is between the PA and many factions, including Hamas. The problem is not a result of conflicting ideologies; it is a result of unacceptable practices in this or that field. Consequently, one can build confidence between the PA and Hamas through many steps. I was among those who tried to build this confidence. Unfortunately, we were not that successful. We hope that in the forthcoming stage, it would be possible to implement this formula to avert disaster for our people as a result of Israel's designs in the region.

[Al-Qazzaz] Dr. al-Zahhar: You are talking about confidence-building between the Authority and Hamas. The Authority comprises several factions, as well as independents. This means you have to build confidence with more than one faction on the Palestinian arena or more than one faction of the National Authority?

[Al-Zahhar] You know the size of the various factions participating in the Palestinian Authority. We do not belittle the importance of any person, but we hope that the tools of construction will come from all Palestinian citizens, regardless of their affiliation with this or that organization.

[Al-Qazzaz] A delegation from Hamas Movement traveled abroad — to Sudan. What was the exact mission of that delegation, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar?

[Al-Zahhar] To establish the exact mission of the delegation, I have to know what they carried with them. However, I was in jail at the time of the delegation's departure. From what I have heard from my brothers, they did not go as a Hamas delegation, but as a delegation mediating between the Authority and Hamas. They carried with them the Authority's ideas on various topics and Hamas' ideas on other topics. A draft agreement was presented to the Authority 12 days before our arrest. We expected the Authority to accept it so that we could announce an agreement to the Palestinian people. So, the delegation members also carried the provisions of this agreement and went to meet with several parties. We pray to God to render

their efforts a success and we hope that they will return with results that will benefit the Palestinian people.

[Al-Qazzaz] Will Hamas participate in the forthcoming Palestinian legislative elections, or does Hamas insist on its position which rejects any participation in these elections?

[Al-Zahhar] First of all, Hamas was, and is still a militant [jihadiyah] organization acting against the occupation. Now, if a new reality is imposed that requires the establishment of parties, then parties will participate. We do not have now a law that specifies or regulates the way to establish parties. We need a law, which must be approved by all Palestinian factions and the Palestinian public, that can entrench the concept of pluralism. After that, these bodies which will be established, be they parties or political or ideological organizations, can present their ideas and decide to participate or not participate in the elections.

[Al-Qazzaz] If Hamas participates in the elections, will it become part of the legislative authority, Dr. al-Zahhar?

[Al-Zahhar] This matter must be left to the party that will be established. Before we speak of having children, we must speak of having a wife and a house. These are not there yet.

[Al-Qazzaz] The house is there, even though it is small, in Gaza and Jericho. Tomorrow, or let us say today, the occupation troops will leave Silfit in the West Bank, Dr. al-Zahhar.

[Al-Zahhar] We pray to God that this withdrawal will be concluded soon and that it will take place in all the Palestinian territory. Not a single Palestinian wishes to see the foreigners desecrating this land, which God Almighty has made holy. This is a demand and a wish for every person who has made sacrifices to see Palestine free. Therefore, there are no differences over the objectives, but there are different methods. Differences in methods should not cause conflict. This has been the position of Hamas from the very beginning.

[Al-Qazzaz] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Hamas leaders, Good morning to you. See you.

[Al-Zahhar] Good bye.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th, Israeli Minister Discuss Future Cooperation
JN1010211995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1900 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, held talks with

Yosi Beilin, Israeli minister of economy and planning, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in occupied Jerusalem this afternoon.

They discussed scopes of future cooperation between Palestine and Israel in the field of comprehensive economic development. Planning Ministry sources said the Palestinian side presented the Palestinian economic plan for the interim period, as well as a comprehensive vision on developing the Palestinian economic situation.

The sources added that the Israeli side presented a concept regarding the Israeli strategic economic plan until the year 2010. The Israeli side also explained its current economic plan.

Al-Tibi Petitions Israel on Prisoners

TA1010171595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Next week, the [Israeli] High Court of Justice will discuss a petition, filed this morning by Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, that says that the Palestinian women prisoners should be released without being pardoned by the president or the Central Command commander. Al-Tibi claims that pardons may be given to convicted criminals but, regarding security prisoners, the president and the commander must follow the government's political commitments. Our legal affairs correspondent Yiftah El'azar has the details:

[Begin recording] [El'azar] In his petition, Dr. al-Tibi presents a demand that has not been made so far: He claims that in addition to the female prisoners, the Israeli Government pledged to release 12 Palestinian women detainees who have not yet been tried. Al-Tibi demands that the court order that all the women prisoners and detainees, including those convicted of murder, be released even without being pardoned by the president or the commander of the Central Command.

[Al-Tibi] The commander of the Central Command, who refused to pardon at least three Palestinian women prisoners and detainees, was party to the negotiations as a member of the Israeli delegation in Taba. He is subject to the chief of staff, who is subject to the defense minister, who is subject to the Israeli Government, which signed the agreement. Hence, he is knowingly and grossly violating an agreement that the government has signed.

In addition, the president's refusal to grant pardons is of no interest to the Palestinian Authority [PA] which is a party to the agreement.

[El'azar] Al-Tibi demands that until the court rules on the matter, the women prisoners be released on leave, claiming that being held in jail violates their rights.

Justice Mikha'el Heshin rejected the request, and ruled that the petition in its entirety should be heard by three judges next week. [end recording]

PA member Nabil Sha'th today attacked Israel on the prisoner issue. According to him, the fact that not all the prisoners who were slated to be released in the agreement have been freed, constitutes a deviation from the agreement by one side. Sha'th made the remarks after meeting Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin. Our correspondent Uri Gordon reports:

[Begin recording] [Gordon] Despite expressing great hopes about the economic sphere, after their meeting today, Yosi Beilin and Nabil Sha'th could not avoid exchanging unpleasant remarks on the political issues still on the agenda.

According to Sha'th, Police Minister Moshe Shahal had promised that 1,100 prisoners would be released, but now it has been announced that only 600 will be freed. People who were listed to be released, now discover that their names have been deleted from the list. I fully support their refusal to be freed before their comrades, he said.

[Sha'th, in English] So, what are you going to do? You are going to drag them kicking and screaming and throw them out of jail?

[Gordon] Sha'th stressed that some of the prisoners will simply be transferred to Palestinian prisons. He also lashed out at the Israeli Government on the issue of the release of the women prisoners, this time he spared President Weizman and lashed out at Major General Ilan Biran:

[Sha'th, in English] I cannot understand it. A general of the army, a member of a corps that is headed by Mr. Rabin himself, decides on his own not to release two more female prisoners. If he was my general, I would have fired him.

[Gordon] Yosi Beilin could not hide his embarrassment. After holding a pleasant economic discussion with his PA counterpart, he said that it had been made clear to the Palestinians that the release depends on the approval of the president and the Central Command commander, and that they must take the Israeli system into account.

[Beilin] This is no surprise. We, on the other hand, know that our demand that the Palestinian Covenant be amended will not be met before the Palestinian National Council meets with a quorum of at least two-thirds of its members.

[Gordon] And, if the impression was that economic issues will turn out positive, Sha'th attacked here as

well: The closure casts a shadow on economic relations and developments. How can we persuade Palestinian entrepreneurs to work in Israel when a closure is in effect. Once again, the long-term economic planning that Minister Beilin cares so much about was cast aside by the ongoing political debates. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 10 October adds: "Nabil Sha'th said today the PA will neither halt nor slow down the implementation of the

Oslo B agreement as a result of President Weizman's decision not to release two women security prisoners. Sha'th told our economic affairs correspondent Mena-hem Friedman he believes the president was mistaken in his decision, and urged him to reconsider the issue. He said the PA will continue to hold intense contacts with Israel and at the same time will try to influence public opinion in a bid to reverse the decision."]

Algeria

GIA Statements on Bombings, Chirac Reported

MM1010110195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
8 Oct 95 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed report: "Algerian Organization Claims Responsibility for Explosions in France; GIA Tells Chirac: 'Become a Muslim...and You Will Be Safe'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — In a statement received by AL-HAYAH yesterday, the Algerian Armed Islamic Group [GIA] claimed responsibility for the series of explosions that took place in Paris from last July. The statement, however, did not say anything about the explosion which took place the day before yesterday, due to the fact that the GIA's statement was dated 23 September. The GIA also called on President Jacques Chirac to adopt Islam.

In another statement, dated 19 August, also received by AL-HAYAH, the GIA told Chirac: "Become a Muslim and you will be safe." The statement, which the organization said was actually a message addressed to Chirac, bore the signature of "Commander of the Group, Abou Abderrahmane." It stated: "Be informed that we are calling upon you to become a Muslim. This, however, does not mean that we are trying to woo you and wish you to help us or that we fear any military interference by you. But rather it is to provide a proof for argument against you before God so that you would have no excuse on doomsday, and to draw your attention to the fact that you are responsible for all the others and that you are held responsible for your own sins as well as for the sins of those people under your command. By our call, we are only performing something that God has ordered us to do, and we are only performing a duty that was imposed upon us.

"Be informed also that we would be happy to see you repent and become a Muslim, not for the sake of anything that we would gain in this world but rather for the sake of a reward that we seek from God. For thus our Prophet, may God grant him grace and bless his soul, used to feel happy when any of the Jews who had harmed him became Muslim. The Prophet felt happy at this not for any worldly reward that he [the convert] might get because of this but for the reward he would get after his death, and he used to say: Thanks be to God for saving him from hell.

"So we tell you, become a Muslim, and you will be safe and God will reward you twice. You can do so by saying: I testify that there is no God but Allah and that he has no partner [in deity] and I testify that Muhammad was His servant and messenger and I also testify that Jesus was only a servant and messenger of God and His

word which he conveyed unto Mary and which was His spirit. If you wish to be saved from God's punishment on doomsday, then read the Torah and the Gospel and you will find the name of the Prophet Muhammad, may God grant him grace and bless his soul, mentioned in both of them....

"Beware of feeling proud because of your sins, polytheism, and being an infidel. Beware not to take this as a joking matter, for we shall bring you to account for it before God on doomsday....

"We shall await your response to this invitation within three weeks from the date of your receiving it. Written on 23 Rabbi' al-Awl 1416 of the Hegira corresponding to 19 August 1995 AD."

As to the statement in which the GIA declares its espousal of the explosions, it bore the heading "Comment on the Invitation to Jacques Chirac To Become a Muslim and Be Safe — the Sword or Humiliation and Servility."

"1. By virtue of our faith and our religion, we are above asking or calling for dialogue. By our faith, we are above weakening or relinquishing an iota of our religion, for this is one of the biggest impossibilities for us....

"2. You are aware, O enemy of God, that the GIA never jests and that it does what it says it will do, fearing no blame in the cause of God. Let me remind you, in this regard, of the 42 French citizens who were executed after the lapse of the period of warning given to them to leave our country. We wish to remind you also of the Deli Ibrahim operation (3 August 1994) the facts of which you know only too well...and also the Airbus operation (24 December 1994) which resulted in the death of over 40 people, though you have kept these figures a state secret to cover up your weakness and to disseminate your lies. Thanks be to God, you have come out of this operation routed and defeated.

"Be assured that with God's permission, the GIA actually does what it says and that its men welcome death and are keen to die just as you love life and are keen to remain alive.

"3. It has transpired that the man the French people have chosen as their president is as indifferent to the shedding of their blood as the president who had preceded him, and that he is fully prepared to sacrifice the lives of more Frenchmen and allow the shedding of their blood just to camouflage his ideological and crusade grudges and his political defects. This explains his support for the apostate idols [the Algerian rulers] despite what befalls his subjects. This fact also proves the falsehood of his claim that he is only helping the Algerian people and not the Algerian regime. Had this been true, then he

would have placed the interests of the French people above the interests of other peoples. But greed kills the greedy, as the saying goes.

"O French people. The GIA has continually proven its might since you were warned by brother Djafar Saifullah [name as transliterated] — may God bless his soul — toward the end of 1993 to leave our country or be killed. Indeed, the GIA has embarked on the killing of all those among you who refused to heed this warning. It then resorted to boycotting you in all fields after your support for the apostates on more than one occasion became known, in accordance with the statement issued by brother Shaykh Abou Abdallah Ahmed — may God bless his soul — in his statement which was headed: A Statement to France, the Mother of Evils.

"Here we are today continuing, with all power and might, our Jihad measures and military blows, but we are doing it this time in the heart of France and in its own house, in its biggest cities, to prove that, thanks be to God, our power is much mightier than the enemies of God had thought it to be. It has been proven again and again that nothing can stand in our way as long as what we are doing is an act of worship for God Almighty.

"Let everyone know that the GIA does what it does in order to get closer to God and as an act of worship to God Almighty. It does not do what it does for the sake of gaining a reputation or achieving any publicity objective. It has adopted the Jihad in the cause of God, just for the sake of bolstering the word of God...and, with God Almighty's will, it fulfills whatever it pledges to do and strikes at anything it wants, wherever it wants, and whenever it wants...and declares whatever it wants whenever it wants, by God Almighty's will....

"We pledge to rob you of all sleep and deprive you of all your pleasures. Islam will enter France by hook or by crook."

FIS Says GIA Claims on Bomb Attacks 'Forged'

*BR1010154995 Paris LE FIGARO in French
10 Oct 95 p 10*

[Interview with FIS Foreign Spokesman Anouar Haddam by Alexandrine Bouillet in Washington on 9 October: "Terrorism: Anouar Haddam's Denials — According to him the GIA Message Claiming Responsibility for the Bomb Attacks in France Is a Forgery" — first paragraph LE FIGARO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Anouar Haddam, who has been the chairman of the parliamentary delegation of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] abroad, has been a refugee in the United States since May 1992. He was elected on

the FIS list in his native town of Tiemcen, Algeria, in December 1991. After the cancellation of the election process, Anouar Haddam took refuge in Europe, then in the United States. LE FIGARO caught up with Anouar Haddam yesterday in Washington, where he commented on the series of bomb attacks committed in France since the beginning of the summer.

[Bouillet] What do you think of the latest statement signed by the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] claiming responsibility for the series of bomb attacks committed in France?

[Haddam] We are sure that it is a forgery, and a crudely done one at that. The people who wrote it merely want to throw fat on the fire. I am thinking of a certain French political class, formerly represented by Charles Pasqua [former interior minister], who sided with the illegitimate government in power in Algeria.

These people are encouraging the French Government to reject any rapprochement with the parties representing the Algerian people.

[Bouillet] How come you can say that it is a "forgery?"

[Haddam] Because it is not in our interest to export the armed struggle to outside Algeria. Our fight against the government must be limited to Algerian soil. Some people would have you believe that we are internationalizing the Jihad. That is not the case. Such statements are extremely dangerous. They merely add to the frustration of Algerian immigrants in France.

[Bouillet] In your opinion who is behind the bomb attacks committed in France?

[Haddam] Undoubtedly people belonging to the Algerian military security forces. They are the only people to benefit from these crimes. As for the bombers themselves, the French suburbs are rich breeding grounds. Young people are easy to manipulate. They are so frustrated at their situation.

[Bouillet] What are your relations with the GIA?

[Haddam] The GIA only exists in the media. They must stop using this terminology and talk instead of the Mujahidin, who are conducting an armed struggle on their own territory in an effort to liberate the state from the military putsch. The parliamentary delegation of the FIS has always supported the unification of the largest branches of the "Djeema islayima moussalaha" (Armed Islamic Group — LE FIGARO editor's note). We are firmly supporting the struggle of the Mujahidin, but we condemn terrorism, as do the Algerian people. All the terrorist acts committed in Algeria are ordered by the military security forces, who have succeeded in infiltrating certain armed groups to stir up ill-feeling.

[Bouillet] Do you know Djamel Zitouni and Mohammed Said?

[Haddam] Brother Abou Abdeirahmane Amine (alias Zitouni — LE FIGARO editor's note) was elected as the leader of the Mujahidins in Algeria. We respect this choice. Even though the FIS has no links with these armed groups, we can still support their actions. Sheikh Mohammed Said is one of the FIS's leaders on the ground. He supports the Mujahidin, and that is normal. In opting for the armed struggle, Mohammed Said does not want to seize power by force. He wants to enable the people to return to the electoral process.

[Bouillet] Several statements signed by Zitouni claim responsibility for the bomb attacks on French interests in Algeria.

[Haddam] They are forgeries. If the armed struggle in Algeria was recognized by the international community, there would be an official representative who could authenticate such statements.

[Bouillet] What do you want?

[Haddam] President Chirac made some promises. He was elected to implement a policy of change. We understood this to include [policy on] Algeria. This has not turned out to be the case. We also asked Jacques Chirac to agree to receive the FIS's representatives in France, to give them an opportunity to explain our point of view to both the French people and Algerian emigres. We are still waiting for a reply.

[Bouillet] What do you think of the planned meeting between President Chirac and Algerian President Zerouai in the United States?

[Haddam] If this meeting is in line with the spirit of the Rome accords, if it encourages General Zerouai to sit down at the negotiating table with the parties representing the Algerian people, then such a meeting is to be welcomed. However, in the present context, elections cannot take place.

FIS' Haddam on Chirac-Zerouai Meeting, GIA

JN1010201395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian and non-Algerian voices have criticized the French president's agreement to meet with President Zerouai even at a neutral place, such as the United Nations. In order to know the reaction of the Algerian opposition forces, particularly the armed Islamic current, we contacted Anouar Haddam, member of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Executive Committee abroad, to ask him about the FIS's stand

on the expected meeting between Chirac and Zerouai. Haddam said:

[Begin recording] [Haddam] Naturally, any meeting with the representative of the terrorist Algerian regime is considered as support for that regime. However, if that meeting is intended to inform General Zerouai of the need to get rid of these elements in the military institution, who reject any political solution, and to ask him to sit at the negotiating table with the Algerian parties, the legitimate representatives of the Algerian people, in accordance with the National Convention, which was concluded in Rome, we welcome such an initiative. In fact, we ask the international community to exert pressure on the Algerian regime to accept the required political solution, which was signed by the legitimate parties in Rome last January.

[Correspondent] I understand from what you are saying Anouar Haddam that you do not object at all, or in principle, to the expected meeting between the French president and President Zerouai?

[Haddam] As I have said, this meeting could be exploited by the regime media by portraying it as support for the terrorist Algerian regime. However, we hope the meeting will be an opportunity to exert pressure on Gen. Zerouai to accept the National Convention and to abandon the coming serious game, which they call the presidential elections. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the competent French apparatuses continued to verify the statement attributed to the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] in Algeria, claiming responsibility for the explosions in France, and the text of the message which was attached to the statement. The commander of the group reportedly addressed the message to President Chirac, calling on him to become a Muslim. Regarding this statement which is attributed to the GIA, Anouar Haddam said:

[Begin recording] [Haddam] First, what took place in France over the past days cannot at all be attributed to the legitimate jihad being waged inside Algeria. We reject any terrorist operation regardless of its target. Consequently, these operations cannot be within this framework. Second, our mujahidin brothers are fighting those who took power by force and their supporters inside Algeria.

[Correspondent] What about the call to Chirac: Become a Muslim, and you will be safe?

[Haddam] This does not merit any response. This matter falls within the framework of casting doubt on the legitimacy of defending our constitutional rights inside Algeria and about the justice of the Algerian cause. This is an attempt to exert pressure on the new

French Government not to change its policy vis-a-vis the coupists in Algeria.

[Correspondent] Would such a call be made by the GIA?

[Haddam] Absolutely not.

[Correspondent] Are you denying this categorically?

[Haddam] Yes. [end recording]

Security Forces Kill 100 Islamists

*LD1110102395 Paris LCI Television in French
1000 GMT 11 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, according to this morning's issue of the daily, EL WATAN, about 100 armed Islamists were reportedly killed on the west coast in a large-scale operation by the security forces.

The same daily reports that three people were killed by the explosion of a truck bomb yesterday morning in Khemis Miliana, a town 120 km from Algiers.

Dailies Report Imam, Teacher Killed

*LD1010105695 Paris France-2 Teletext in French
1001 GMT 10 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Two more civilians were killed in Algeria on 9 October, Algerian dailies reported today.

In Algiers, an imam, 65, was shot dead outside his home, according to EL WATAN.

In Bouira (90 km east of Algiers) a secondary school teacher, 31, an activist of the Berber Cultural Movement, was shot dead, according to LA TRIBUNE and L'OPINION.

War Veteran, Son, Assassinated in Bouzareah

*LD0910172395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services disclosed that Hamadi Omar, a 64-year old liberation war veteran, was assassinated this morning in Bouzareah, together with his son Mohamed Cherif, 24 years' old. His other son Ezzeddine, 30 years' old, was wounded. The victims were assassinated when they were getting into their vehicle.

Egypt

Official Comments on Israeli, U.S. Peace Stands

*NC1010203395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1750 GMT 10 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 10 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said that Egypt's and Syria's views on all

Arab issues and the regional situation are identical. In an interview with MENA, al-Baz said. [Passage indistinct]

Al-Baz was asked about U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region and whether he expects an easing of the Syrian track. He replied: We hope so. What is required is not a visit, but for Israel to be responsive to Syria's readiness to make peace.

Al-Baz, who accompanied President Husni Mubarak on his short visit to Syria today, said: What we have sensed in the past is that Syria is assessing its stand and the situation, not just to analyze intentions but the stands themselves. He emphasized that the issue is not one of trust; what is important is to have objective stands, not skepticism about intentions.

He said if Israel wants to prove its good intentions, it should show it by its stands, not by making conditions because it controls the occupied territories.

Al-Baz added that if Israel has the mentality of peace, its approach must be peaceful not based on benefiting from a certain situation that to gain special privileges.

He explained that if tangible progress on certain tracks requires a particular political climate inside Israel and perhaps in the United States, each state is responsible for assessing its own foreign and domestic policy instead of waiting for elections to be held. He noted that Israel bears international responsibility under the Madrid Conference, which the negotiations are based on, in light of UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and in light of the principle of land for peace and the Palestinian people's national and political rights.

Asked his view of the future U.S. role in the peace process, he said this role must be "active," not only through contacts but also in the essence of these contacts.

He explained that the more the U.S. stand is responsive and in line with the international authority and principles of the peace process, the more effective it will be. He said the U.S. stand must be inclined toward objectivity and the possibility of making tangible progress. He emphasized that the United States knows what is required as regards Israel and Syria.

Mubarak Returns After Talks in Damascus

*NC1010170495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1635 GMT 10 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned home safely this evening with God's protection from Damascus after a short visit to Syria.

During the visit, President Mubarak held talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the important bilateral relations and ways to bolster them, as well as efforts needed to push the Middle East peace process forward.

Information Minister Comments on Damascus Talks

NC1010121195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1140 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 10 Oct (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Syria and his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad today are part of the constant consultations between the two countries and leaders. He remarked that the visit follows President Mubarak's visit to the United States, something that will be discussed at the summit meeting between the two leaders.

Al-Sharif told MENA that the assessment of the peace process and the different opinions on it are among the topics to be discussed by the two leaders, in addition to Arab and regional issues. He added that the two presidents will consider international issues and coordinate positions on them.

The information minister added that two meetings were held on the sidelines of this summit. The first involved the Syrian prime minister and the information ministers in both countries and it discussed bilateral ties.

The second meeting was held between Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his counterpart Faruq al-Shar'. It was attended by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and discussed the coordination of foreign policies, the information minister said.

Musa on Peace Process, Arab Issues, U.S.

MM0610155595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
6 Oct 95 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Raghdah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dirgham] Let us start with the views expressed by various sides in the region concerning Iraq which include formulas, possibilities, assumptions, and objectives with regard to drawing a new map of Iraq. Would you support drawing a new map of Iraq?

[Musa] Not only do we oppose it from a moral viewpoint, but we will also make a very firm stand against any plan to partition Iraq or redraw its map. Iraq is Iraq as we know it, a member of the Arab League and the Arab community. Any conspiracy or maneuver

aiming to partition it will be opposed very firmly by us all, and especially by Egypt.

[Dirgham] What exactly do you mean by opposed?

[Musa] In an appropriate manner. What is certain is that Egypt will categorically and unequivocally reject it.

[Dirgham] You are of course aware of the talk about a federation in Iraq: south, north, and center joined in a confederation.

[Musa] No. If the Iraqi people accept these arrangements, this is up to them. You are, however, talking about something else, namely redrawing the map, meaning to carve up this or that part or change the borders and so on. Here, our position is clear. This is unacceptable.

[Dirgham] So Iraq's unity comes first?

[Musa] Naturally, without any doubt.

[Dirgham] There are other rumors to the effect that change in Iraq should be brought about from outside, by a regional coalition. Where do you stand on this matter?

[Musa] Our position is that change from the outside is ruled out. If internal change is needed, then it must come from inside. The most important thing is for the Iraqis to govern themselves by themselves, that is for the Iraqi people to be ruled by an Iraqi. Outside interference in this matter is more harmful than beneficial.

[Dirgham] Do you think that Egypt will not be party to any regional coalition to impose change on Iraq from outside?

[Musa] I do not believe that, nor do I believe that any regional, international coalition, or anything else, would be acceptable to the Arabs, and it would not succeed either.

[Dirgham] Some Gulf states have stressed that it is impossible for them to coexist with Saddam Husayn's regime. Bearing in mind your relations with the Gulf states, how do you define your position regarding this issue?

[Musa] It is clear that there is still a great deal of bitterness in the Gulf against Saddam Husayn. It is even clearer that they (the Gulf states) want nothing to do with him. This is only one aspect of the issue and we must find a way to return Iraq to the Arab fold.

[Dirgham] What is Egypt's view? Does it favor Iraq's return to the Arab fold with Saddam Husayn's regime or with someone else's?

[Musa] This return must take place. It would be best if it happened with everyone's consent, and not against the wishes of some, or in the interests of some.

[Dirgham] There are some who insist that it is impossible to coexist with Saddam's regime even if he were to transform Iraq along the lines of the German or Japanese model by reestablishing the civil and economic balance after the defeat.

[Musa] Indeed there are some who insist on that.

[Dirgham] If I understand you clearly, this is not Egypt's feeling, or am I mistaken?

[Musa] We are talking about Iraq now, and our objective discussion of the Iraq issue leaves no room for personal feelings with regard to Egypt's viewpoint or positions.

[Dirgham] Then if the Iraqi Government implements everything that is required by the Security Council resolutions...

[Musa] The sanctions on Iraq must then be lifted.

[Dirgham] Regardless...

[Musa] Immediately, as long as it complies with all Security Council resolutions. Besides, it has already recognized Kuwait's sovereignty. If this happens and there is a Security Council report and a resolution from it to that effect, there will be absolutely no reason to continue with the sanctions, especially in view of the great harm that has befallen the Iraqi people and the extreme suffering to which they have been subjected.

[Dirgham] Do you not agree with the old view, which is reappearing and is supported by some European and Arab states, that it is necessary to maintain the sanctions as long as Saddam Husayn remains in power?

[Musa] We understand this differently. The sanctions must continue only as long as the resolutions are not implemented, and not as long as Saddam Husayn remains in power.

[Dirgham] What is your view on the question of axes, coalitions, roles, and rivalries which apparently determine the positions of states? As far as scenarios go, bearing in mind your joint positions toward Iraq, for example, is Egypt now closer to Syria?

[Musa] Yes, there is indeed an Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement, understanding, consultation, and coordination on many issues.

[Dirgham] Is the part played by King Husayn in the region among the reasons for the rapprochement?

[Musa] There is a main and principal reason which predates all present events. It is a strategic issue more than anything else and has nothing to do with King

Husayn himself. It predates all these problems and issues.

[Dirgham] How do you envisage Syrian-Egyptian relations developing in future?

[Musa] Among the most important stabilizing factors in the Arab world is an understanding between Egypt and Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Maghreb, and between Saudi Arabia and Syria. In other words there are numerous understandings. We must take a close look at the Arab world. The Arab world today is passing through the worst phase in its political life.

[Dirgham] Why?

[Musa] For a number of reasons, including the Gulf issue, Iraq and Kuwait, and the Palestinian issue. Is there really progress toward self-determination and the establishment of a state or not? This would be a long discussion, and you and I might not agree on everything.

[Dirgham] And what is your opinion?

[Musa] I believe that the Palestinian state is in the making, and that we will resolutely march toward it. This does not mean that I am saying that this recent agreement (self-rule agreement) is perfect. No, the agreement has shortcomings, and is not a perfect document, set in stone. Incidentally, to make myself clear, we do not consider Camp David to be a perfect agreement but it did the job and served a purpose. This is a transitional phase, between a state of occupation and independence. What has happened in all these issues, activities, and agreements, including the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement, serves this purpose. I believe that we are getting closer to Palestinian self-determination.

[Dirgham] You are aware of the U.S., Syrian, and various other positions concerning the Syrian-Israeli track in the negotiations. What is your assessment of the Syrian position now? Are we seeing a reaction, that is to say, that it has adopted a defensive position for fear of not being part of the region's orientation or...?

[Musa] The Syrians are intelligent. I have a great deal of confidence in the intelligence of (Syrian Foreign Minister) Faruq al-Shar' personally, and other officials. They know that the time factor is important and that progress on the various tracks is bound to lead to progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. It would be very harmful if there was no progress on the Syrian track now. And since Syria's objectives are known and they have clear Arab and international support, Israel must withdraw from the territories it occupied on 5 June 1967 in return for specific commitments based on the

principle of land for peace. This is the right time to resume and reactivate the peace process.

[Dirgham] What is needed to continue the peace process and boost it on the Syrian track?

[Musa] I believe that the (5 October) meeting between Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will be very important in this context. Why? If only to test the starting point. That is to say, if there was a starting point previously, and it failed, there is another which might succeed. In other words, they should discuss how to reactivate [the peace process], and how to continue with it and achieve success.

[Dirgham] Do you think that there is some pessimism on the horizon? That is to say, that there will be no progress on the Syrian-Israeli track before the Israeli elections. Is that a bad thing or is it inevitable? Or does this track have nothing to do with the elections?

[Musa] I believe that progress must start now.

[Dirgham] What if it does not?

[Musa] I do not think that there is any sense in that.

[Dirgham] Will the failure to reach an agreement before the elections weaken the Syrian track in the peace process?

[Musa] I imagine that, as long as there is agreement on the principle of land for peace, this is what will happen in the end. However, with regard to postponing the withdrawal, the return of territories, and establishing peace as well as lifting this burden from Syria, I believe that the time has come to reactivate the peace process.

[Dirgham] The Syrians say that the reasons are firstly that the United States is unwilling to give a big push, and secondly the loss of leadership and decisionmaking capacity by Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Musa] Rabin has proved that he is capable of making decisions as he did in the Palestinian and the Jordanian agreements, so I do not think this applies. That view exists and Syria is no exception. I believe that Syria can make decisions and has the political will to establish peace. I also believe that tactical moves in this issue must make way for strategy and speeding up the track.

[Dirgham] What is your personal view? It seems that on the Syrian-Israeli track there are all the ingredients for an agreement. But it is constantly hindered. As an expert in negotiations, what do you think are the real reasons for this hindrance?

[Musa] Mutual doubts and disagreement on the starting point, and the ambiguity of the finishing line.

[Dirgham] Is there any way to resolve the disputes between Egypt and Sudan?

[Musa] Naturally. The basis is the policy of terrorism and hiding behind the veil of religion and abusing it to cover plots aimed at terrorizing Arab, Islamic, and neighboring societies. This must stop. There are no other disputes that cannot be resolved, including Hala'ib. This issue, that is the issue of terrorism, is the crucial issue that will determine everything

[Dirgham] So the Hala'ib issue is negotiable?

[Musa] The question is not whether it is negotiable. My comment on this issue is that Egypt's border must be Sudan's southern border just as Sudan's must be Egypt's northern border. The question is not Hala'ib. In any case, if Hala'ib is Egyptian, it is at the same time Sudanese and Arab.

[Dirgham] Have you made any efforts and have these been successful in stopping Libya from expelling the Palestinians?

[Musa] We did ask. And naturally, our efforts in this respect continue. The Palestinians do not need new catastrophes. However, it seems that there are other considerations or views saying that the time has come for them to return home. We are treating this as a humanitarian issue that must be resolved immediately. We hope that this problem will end.

[Dirgham] What about Libya putting its candidacy forward for Security Council membership and the possibility that the Arab seat may be lost? Have you discussed this issue?

[Musa] The Arab seat must be safeguarded. There is a great deal of Arab talk on this point, but I prefer not go into details now.

[Dirgham] Naturally, Egypt would have welcomed being the candidate for Security Council membership?

[Musa] The main point is that Libya must tackle this issue with complete approval and with a clear political resolution to safeguard the Arab seat. However, the issue of who occupies the Arab seat depends on an agreement and not on nominating a specific state.

[Dirgham] What about Egyptian-U.S. relations? They seem sometimes somewhat cool and ridden with doubts and fears. You must have discussed the nature of these relations with the Americans. How do you assess these relations now?

[Musa] They are firm and stable. This, however, does not mean that there is agreement on everything. There is disagreement over some points and agreement on

others, because we have regional interests and a regional perspective that may be different from the U.S. view of the region which is from a global perspective. I would like to say that on the whole relations are firm and stable. It is in our interest that they are distinctive and good. This is what we must safeguard. The United States does that, and so does Egypt.

Musa's Meeting With al-Qadhdhafi Reported

NC0710052095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2210 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo tonight after a short visit to Libya during which he delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak for Libyan Revolution Leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi. The message dealt with a number of current Arab issues.

Shaykh's Conviction Shows Country's Security Skill

NC0610174495 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
3 Oct 95 p 11

[Editorial: "The Competence of Egyptian Security"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The most important thing about the U.S. jury's conviction of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman for involvement in a major terrorist conspiracy is that it proves that information offered by Egyptian security services concerning movements and activities of terrorists is true.

The U.S. verdict is a new testimony to the competence and meticulous work of the Egyptian anti-terror agencies. A month ago, Ethiopia found that the information Egypt offered concerning the Sudanese regime's role in the attempt to assassinate President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa on 26 June was true. It may be useful to remember that the U.S. agencies, especially the Federal Bureau of Investigation, did not at first take Egypt's information seriously enough. But gradually, and through surveillance of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's activities, the FBI found that those activities could not be listed under freedom of opinion and the right to engage in political action. Thus, the U.S. authorities had to imprison him, and they later took an additional step when they found enough evidence to officially indict him and bring him to trial. The trial ended the day before yesterday with a guilty verdict after the court listened to 200 witnesses and examined hundreds of documents.

This, however, does not mean that the Egyptian security service needs a certificate of competence from any other agency in the world, even the agency of the biggest country in the world today.

It is clear to everyone that Egyptian anti-terror agencies have managed to contain the terrorist elements, identify their leaders, and direct repeated successful blows against them. These agencies could not have done this if they had lacked accurate information or competence to monitor terrorists at home and abroad.

But the conviction of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman is a recognition by the world's most powerful security and judiciary apparatus that the Egyptian security service bases its moves on correct information and uses objective criteria no different than those used in one of the world's most deep-rooted democracies.

Uzbek Foreign Minister Opens Embassy in Cairo

NC0710192795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov opened Uzbekistan's embassy in Cairo this evening. The opening ceremony was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and a number of Arab, Islamic, and foreign ambassadors in Egypt.

Official talks between Egypt and Uzbekistan are scheduled to begin at the Foreign Ministry headquarters on 8 October and will be chaired by the two countries' foreign ministers. The talks will deal with ways to advance bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields, in addition to discussing the latest developments in Bosnia, the Commonwealth, the Balkan countries, developments in the Middle East peace process, and world issues.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

NC0810143195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1340 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—Egypt and Uzbekistan today signed a protocol for cooperation between their Foreign Ministries. The protocol was signed for Egypt by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and for the Uzbek side by Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov.

'Amr Musa stated that the protocol aims to strengthen bilateral relations in various fields and noted that cultural relations are very active.

Musa said agreement was reached to form a joint committee between Egypt and Uzbekistan to stimulate trade and economic ties, coordinate on politics and economy, and to follow up on the implementation of the accords signed by Presidents Husni Mubarak and Islam Karimov in Cairo last year.

The Uzbek foreign minister emphasized that signing the protocol today is an important step toward advancing

bilateral relations. He said that during their meeting he and 'Amr Musa discussed several issues, primarily the Middle East peace process, Egypt's active role in removing the obstacles blocking peace, and the worsening situation in Afghanistan.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Musa

NC0810133795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1240 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov has stated that Egyptian and Russian stances are identical on African problems and proposed solutions to them as well as on bilateral cooperation in this regard.

In a statement after meeting Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today he noted the importance of cooperation between his country and the OAU, the role of which is growing every day.

The Russian official said he briefed Musa on the outcome of his talks in Addis Ababa with OAU Secretary General Salem Ahmad Salem, developments in Chechnya, and efforts to find a peaceful settlement to this problem.

Musa said he raised the idea of tripartite cooperation involving Egypt, Russia, and Africa along the lines of the tripartite cooperation involving Egypt, Japan, and Africa. The Russian official welcomed the idea.

Government To Send Aid to Bosnia

NC0710143295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1315 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Mamduh Jabr, secretary general of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, said today that humanitarian aid of blankets, clothes, and medicine will be sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina for the winter season.

He added that financial aid has been sent to Bosnia via the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Union and that it has been delivered to the Bosnian Red Crescent for distribution to people in Sarajevo, Tuzla, and Bihac.

Jabr said the Egyptian aid to Bosnia amounted to approximately 4 million pounds. He added that contributions from various institutions, organizations, and individuals are still pouring into the Red Crescent's main center in Cairo and its branches in the governorates.

Ethiopian Envoy on Sudanese 'Criminals'

NC1010130195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1150 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—Ethiopian Ambassador in Cairo Toga Chanka Teshome has said his country insists Sudan comply with the request to hand over the three criminals who took part in the sinful assault on President Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa and who are in Sudan.

He told AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today that Ethiopia is still giving Sudan the chance to abide by the extradition agreement the two countries signed. He remarked that it is hard to cooperate with Sudan under the current terrorist practices.

The ambassador added that President Mubarak was right from the outset when he repeatedly asserted that Ethiopia was innocent of the crime. He referred here to deep bilateral relations.

Petroleum Minister on Oil, Natural Gas Reserves

NC0710094895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0835 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo 7 Oct (MENA)—Petroleum Minister Hamdi al-Banbi has stated that what his ministry provides in the form of petroleum products and natural gas to meet the country's requirements is worth 10 billion Egyptian pounds a year, in addition to 4 billion pounds—the value of annual exports channeled to support development in the various sectors of the national economy.

The minister said in a statement today that Egypt's crude oil reserves have risen from 3.3 billion barrels in 1982 to 3.7 billion barrels at the beginning of the current year. Some 3.9 billion barrels were produced during this period for local consumption and export.

The minister noted that natural gas reserves reached 22.3 trillion cubic feet, compared with 6.3 trillion cubic feet in 1982. This comes in addition to what was produced to meet the requirements of the production sectors and the operation of electricity plants and services—some 4 trillion cubic feet. [passage omitted]

Labor Party Notes Program for Assembly Election

NC0610151495 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Oct 95
p 12

["Basic principles" of the Labor Party's election program]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Slavery for God" guides every aspect of the [Labor] Party's program. It is, consequently, the axiom that guides the party in the field of democracy (shura). Shura is one of the pillars of human construction and one of God's established facts. It has, therefore, become one of the traits of rational societies. Shura is a precondition for achieving justice, upgrading the administration of society, reducing mistakes and deviations, and fighting corruption.

The Islamic call, or the return to Islam as a term of reference for all the affairs of our society, is imposed not by force, coercion, or despotism, but by wise preaching and good counsel; that is through the people's conviction and acceptance. The citizenship rights of Copts must be safeguarded as they are partners in the building of the homeland.

Through the principle of the "pact" [al-Bay'ah: an oath of allegiance by the subjects or their representatives by which a ruler is installed or recognized] and the right to oust the ruler, the Islamic shari'ah determined that the people are the source of power. Binding shura, therefore, is a pillar and a basic part of our esteemed shari'ah. The Labor Party's election program is based on several basic principles in accordance with which we contest the upcoming People's Assembly elections. These principles are:

—The president of the Republic shall be elected through open elections. The referendum system shall be abolished, and the tradition of keeping the president in his post forever shall be ended.

—The legislative authority shall have the power to question the president and call him to account because he is the actual head of the executive authority.

—The independence of the judicial authority shall be strengthened, interference in its affairs or encroachment on its jurisdiction shall be stopped, and its independence shall be completely guaranteed.

—Rotation of power among the various political parties is the basis of the democratic system. Complete guarantees for free elections must therefore be provided.

—Press Law No. 93 of 1995, which was rejected by the nation as a weapon for protecting corruption and destroying the press' freedom, shall be immediately repealed.

—The right to establish parties, trade unions, and non-governmental organizations, and the right to publish newspapers, shall be granted to all citizens.

—Freedom of thought and expression shall be guaranteed to all trends and schools of thought without discrimination. This shall apply to newspapers and all books, publications, and literary and artistic works.

—The ruling party's monopoly on the mass media — press, radio, television — shall be ended. These shall really become national mass media.

—The trial of civilians by military courts shall be stopped as this explicitly destroys democracy.

—Interference by legislative and executive authorities in the trade unions' internal affairs shall be stopped because trade unions are independent popular institutions.

Chief of Staff Views Sudan, Security, Exercises

NC0710213595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2045 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces and one of the October war heroes, has stated that the Egyptian people have strong armed forces that are capable of safeguarding their security and soil and that Egypt has plans to deter any action targeting its security.

In an interview with AL-AKHBAR to be published tomorrow on the anniversary of the October war victory, Lt. Gen. Halabi noted that the Egyptian Armed Forces are following with interest the regional and international changes that affect Egyptian national security. He emphasized that any tampering with Egypt's share of the Nile water will be confronted firmly. He noted that the situation on the border with Sudan is stable and that the 22 parallel, which divides the borders with Sudan, is under Egyptian control.

Regarding the Egyptian Armed Forces role in maintaining the homeland's security, Lt. Gen. Halabi stated that the Armed Forces constitute the safety valve against terrorism and extremism and that they take measures to prevent terrorist elements from infiltrating their ranks. They also protect their personnel against poisonous ideas, he added. He noted that the border troops are cooperating with the police to curtail smuggling operations and unlawful entry and that these troops are now equipped with advanced equipment and devices to help them in their work.

In response to a question about the policy of downsizing the Armed Forces personnel and reliance on the quality of armament instead, Lt. Gen. Halabi noted that this trend, followed by armies all over the world, does not mean a reduction in military capabilities, but augment-

ing these capabilities by relying on advanced weapons. To prove this fact, he said in response to another question that the Egyptian Armed Forces have obtained the most updated aircraft, warning equipment, radar, and missiles to protect the Egyptian sky and that the naval forces have been supplied with frigates equipped with anti-submarine helicopters.

In continuation of the constant field training operations, the Egyptian chief of staff announced that the Bright Star exercise will begin next month with the participation of Egypt, the United States, Britain, France, and the United Arab Emirates. The purpose of the exercise, he added is to develop a better use of the equipment and provide an opportunity to train on the advanced armament systems. Preparations have been made to hold the Badr major exercise in September 1996, he added.

Lt. Gen. Halabi noted that the October war constituted a crossing from defeat to victory and a spark that opened the doors of progress, not only for our beloved Egypt, but for the entire Arab region. He pointed out that the October war was necessary to establish a just peace and enjoy the security and stability needed for development. He noted that the October war had proved that the people alone are capable of making miracles, for military equipment could be bought and military science could be studied, but only the men who have willpower and can make decisions are capable of changing the course of history. He added that the Egyptian Armed Forces always benefit from the military expertise of former commanders and pass them on to new generations.

Lt. Gen. Halabi added that the Egyptian Armed Forces have allocated 100 million pounds from the profit of the National Service Department to reclaim 10,000 feddans and build a number of factories as a contribution to the development of Upper Egypt.

Military Chief Discusses 'Bright Star' Maneuvers

NC1010203595 *Cairo ESC Television in Arabic*
1800 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and military production, has said there is a steady increase in military cooperation between Egypt and the Arab countries in all fields. He said efforts are currently being made to develop the quality and quantity of this cooperation for all branches of the Armed Forces.

Field Marshal Tantawi told journalists in Suez today after the Third Army celebrations of the October victory that the United Arab Emirates [UAE] will take part in the Bright Star maneuvers that will take place in Egypt next month. In addition, observers from several Arab

countries will attend these maneuvers. Many Western countries will also take part in these maneuvers for the first time, such as Britain, France, and the United States, in addition to Egypt. He underlined the importance of these maneuvers, in which many countries will be participating, in addition to the importance of bilateral maneuvers between Egypt and the UAE.

Field Marshal Tantawi said Egyptian-U.S. cooperation in the military industry continues. He noted that such cooperation provides stability for Egypt and the Middle East. Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi said the Armed Forces are working on strengthening local industry in the arms and equipment production sector, primarily by using Egyptian experts and cooperating with friendly countries. He clarified that by the end of the year, numerous industrial projects will be inaugurated by the Armed Forces in southern Egypt with the objective of developing that region. He explained that some projects require a long time for implementation, such as the rehabilitation of 10,000 feddans of land by the Armed Forces in Asyut.

Field Marshal Tantawi noted that the Armed Forces will participate in developing Sinai. He stressed that the mission of the Armed Forces during peacetime is much more crucial than their mission during wartime. During times of peace we train the Armed Forces so that they will be able to manage their affairs during any war.

Muslim Brotherhood Opens London Information Center

NC0710170695 *Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic*
30 Sep 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—AL-SAFIR—On the eve of the second session of the military trial scheduled to be held today to try 49 leading figures of the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] in Egypt, Kamal al-Hilbawi, the official spokesman for the MB in London has emphasized that his group will not resort to violence, regardless of the verdicts against the detained leaders.

Commenting on the reference made by President Husni Mubarak in an interview with the French paper LE FIGARO that the authorities may revert to handling the MB with the same methods used during the time of late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, al-Hilbawi emphasized that the "group will not depart from the line of constant dialogue with various segments of Egyptian society, including the ruling authority." He pointed out that the "MB group is the party that currently protects Egypt from plunging into what Algeria or Afghanistan are now experiencing."

Al-Hilbawi made these remarks at a press conference held at the inauguration of the new information office affiliated with the MB in London. [passage omitted]

Al-Hilbawi told AL-SAFIR that the MB's information office in London, established a few days ago, will comply with British laws in its work and will reveal all the undemocratic practices against the MB and various Islamic movements in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Asked about the sources of financing for this center, which is a subscriber to the INTERNET, al-Hilbawi said the main source will come from the revenues of the information services which the center will provide in several languages to various quarters concerned with the causes of Islam and Muslims, the MB, and other Islamic movements.

Although the center's employees include non-Egyptian Islamic nationalities, observers expect the center's activity to focus primarily on issues related to the MB in Egypt. This is particularly true since the Egyptian authorities and the brothers seem to be headed for further alienation, unless the verdicts handed down against the detained figures satisfy the MB and offset the violent currents within its ranks.

Commenting on al-Hilbawi's remarks, a Western observer has stated that the MB is the strongest organization in Egypt after the army. [passage omitted]

Attorney General on Arrest of Brotherhood Leaders
NC1010160295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1420 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—Counselor Hisham Saraya, attorney general for the Higher State Security Prosecution, will keep in prison 14 defendants from among the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood leaders who were arrested by the Higher State Security Investigations recently for a period of 15 days pending investigation of them with the prosecution's knowledge.

The prosecution has several charges against the defendants in this case, among them are joining an illegal secret group that was founded in violation of the regulations of the law and Constitution and helping terrorist groups by providing them with funding and information despite knowing the criminal objectives these groups advocate.

The prosecution also charged them with owning, distributing, and informing others about papers, documents, and publications with evil objectives. These papers and documents also call for advocating the ideas of the Muslim Brotherhood, whose activities are banned, as well as for working against the regime. The prosecution also

charged them with joining an illegal group whose objective is to topple the regime.

The prosecution's interrogation of the defendants showed that they have relations with the terrorists in Sudan and that the two sides have exchanged letters to coordinate the activities of the groups in both countries. The investigations revealed that these elements were closely linked to the terrorists in Upper Egypt.

It also became evident that the defendants were in the process of announcing a new political party called the Egyptian Reform Party, to be used as a cover for their activities. They started an election program for this party as well as by-laws.

Large sums of money in foreign and local currencies were also found with the defendants. They intended to spend the money on the group's activities and on propagating its ideas.

In the next few days, the prosecution will continue its investigations of these defendants.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi To Visit Egypt, Mubarak
NC1010131495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1242 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 10 Oct (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, will pay an official visit to Egypt next week, informed Libyan sources have stated. The same sources added that during the visit Col. al-Qadhdhafi will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments on the Arab and international levels. The two leaders are also expected to discuss the Palestinians in Libya and the latest results of Egypt's efforts to find a solution to the Libyan-Western crisis, known as the Lockerbie crisis. The talks will also deal with consolidating bilateral relations, the sources added.

Jallud Set To Return Despite 'Pressure' by Egypt
MM1110085195 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI
in Arabic 7-8 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Reports Of Jallud's Imminent Return to Libyan Political Stage as Dispute With Egypt Worsens"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — It was reported in Tripoli on Friday that Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, No. 2 in Libya, could return to the limelight in the next few days. And that his return — if it takes place — would confirm the deterioration in Egyptian-Libyan relations.

Arab diplomatic sources in Tripoli have said that Maj. Jallud differed with Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi over the way rapprochement with Cairo should be conducted and the idea of putting all the Libyan eggs in the Egyptian basket after the Lockerbie crisis.

The sources added that the Egyptian leadership put pressure on Col. al-Qadhafi to remove Jallud because of his clear hostility toward it and his establishment of good links with extremist fundamentalist Islamic groups opposed to the present Egyptian regime.

As is known, Maj. Jallud made numerous statements, supporting extremist Islamists in Egypt and Algeria. He also adopted hard-line positions in favor of Iraq during the Kuwait crisis. And he strongly opposed the idea of handing over the two Libyan citizens accused of involvement in the Lockerbie bombing to the United States and Britain. [passage omitted]

UN Mission Refutes U.S. Comments on Palestinians

LD1010113695 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0925 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 10 Oct (JANA) — The Great Jamahiriya's mission to the United Nations issued the following press statement in response to comments made by the U.S. State Department's official spokesman about the Palestinians' return to their homeland:

U.S. State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns allowed himself to interfere, for the second time, in Libya's political decisions and appointed himself defender of the Palestinians. In his 4 October interview, he said that Libya had not allowed the international community to reach the Palestinians on the border with Egypt. He also said that the expulsion of the Palestinians was neither proper nor correct because they had contributed to Libya's progress and the progress of numerous Arab countries, helping to build the Gulf region during the past four decades. The proverb which says "he kills the victim and walks in his funeral procession" applies to the statements by the U.S. State Department spokesman as the United States is the last country to have the right to talk about the Palestinian people and their rights. We wonder: Why has the U.S. spokesman closed his eyes throughout the past decades to the expulsion and displacement processes carried out by the Israelis against the Palestinian people and the camps which were pitched for the Palestinian people in countries neighboring their own? Has his conscience only awakened today to provoke criticism of the call which Libya addressed to the displaced Palestinian people to return to their homeland and claim their properties which the Jewish immigrants seized? The main reason

for the criticism is because Libya's call for return deprives them of their sleep as the Palestinian cause is the issue of the return of the Palestinian people and, unless this issue is solved, there will be no peace. The United States, one of the main contributors to the tragedy of the Palestinian people, today brags about defending them. The United States also supports Israel militarily and materially, encouraging Israel through its influence in the United Nations not to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, including Resolution No. 194 of 1948 which stipulated the right of the Palestinians to return to their homeland.

The call by the leader of the 1 September Revolution to the Palestinians living abroad to return to their country, which the U.S. administration and Israel are attempting to distort, comes at a suitable time to reveal the falsity of the peace agreements and Israeli control over the so-called self-rule authority, to prove the Palestinians' historical and legitimate right to return to their homeland, Palestine, and to foil Israeli attempts to disregard the international resolutions and erase the Palestinian identity by settling the Palestinians in the Arab countries [words indistinct] Palestine to the Israelis.

It would have been more appropriate for the U.S. State Department spokesman to address his criticisms to the Israelis who usurped the land of Palestine, displaced its people, and forced them to live in tents in numerous Arab countries; his country should have worked towards forcing the Israelis to implement the UN resolutions, including those regarding the return of all Palestinian refugees to the land of Palestine.

DPRK Envoy on 'Unjust' Sanctions, Palestinians

LD0910174895 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio
Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] O Yong-chin, the North Korean ambassador to the Great Jamahiriya, has praised the Libyan Arab people's stances that support the unity of the Korean people. In a news conference he held in Tripoli today on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Korean Workers Party, he said that the Korean people appreciated the stances of the Libyan Arab people, its support for the unity of Korea that is the hope of Korean people.

The North Korean ambassador renewed the Korean people's solidarity with the Libyan Arab people in their confronting of the unjust sanctions. He stressed his country's stance, which calls for the lifting of these sanctions.

On the other hand, the North Korean ambassador reaffirmed the Palestinians' right to return to their

country, Palestine, and expel the usurpers from it. He said in this respect: We are with the Palestinian people's struggle in order to free their land and return to their home. He stressed his country's rejection of the obstruction attempts that are being made against the Palestinian people's return to their land, Palestine.

UN Envoy on Right To Try Lockerbie Suspects

LD0510153995 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother delegate of the Great Jamahiriya [Libya] to the United Nations said that the so-called Lockerbie issue is a legal case according to the Montreal Convention for civil aviation. The convention gives the Jamahiriya the right to try the two suspects on its own land. He added that saying otherwise would be obstinacy which does not help in reaching a solution for this issue. The brother delegate said, in his reply to the three Western countries' allegations in this respect, that the Great Jamahiriya has accepted the Arab League's suggestion to solve this crisis. This suggestion has received the support of the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Mauritania

President Announces New Ministerial Appointments

LD0910220495 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Presidency of the Republic today issued a statement announcing that, following a proposal made by the prime minister, the following appointments have been made:

Mr. Ethmane Sid'Ahmed Yessa [formerly in charge of General Control of the State], justice minister;

Mr. Sow Abou Demba [formerly justice minister], minister of trade, handicraft and tourism;

Mr. (Timera Boubou), minister of rural development and environment;

Mr. (Merabet Sidi Mahmoud Ould Cheikh Ahmed), minister of national education;

and Sghaier Ould Mbareck [formerly minister of rural development and environment], minister of health and social affairs.

Another statement released by the Presidency of the Republic said that by virtue of a decree issued today, Dr. Louleid Ould Weddad [formerly minister of national education] has been appointed director of the cabinet of the president of the Republic.

Tunisia

Prime Minister Meets Bosnian Counterpart

LD1010152395 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui this afternoon held talks with Haris Silajdzic, the prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. During the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Habib Ben Yahya, they reviewed the Bosnian prime minister's working visit to Tunisia and the new prospects it provided to bolster relations between the two brotherly countries.

Haris Silajdzic reiterated his gratitude and appreciation for the eagerness shown by the Tunisian president, Government, and people to continue the support for the just Bosnian cause and the willingness to stretch a helping hand toward the Bosnian people to overcome their ordeal and reconstruct the country.

The two sides reviewed the developments of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the necessary efforts required to provide conditions for reaching and sustaining a cease-fire which would facilitate the continuation of the negotiations aimed at establishing peace.

Silajdzic Hails Relations

LD1010150395 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic today held a news conference in which he talked about his visit to Tunisia, the good relations linking the two countries, the situation in Bosnia, and the efforts made to achieve peace in the region. Radio newsroom correspondent Nadjiba Mehri attended the press conference and filed the following report:

[Begin recording] [Mehri] At the press conference the Bosnian prime minister said his visit to Tunisia was an official one and was scheduled to take place three years ago but it was postponed due to the war in Bosnia. He added that relations between Bosnia and Tunisia were good and that Tunisia shouldered its responsibility as a brotherly Islamic country, supporting the Bosnian cause and rendering the necessary aid.

[Silajdzic] The relations between the republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Tunisia are very good. The Tunisian president, Government, and people have shouldered their responsibilities since the first day of the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Therefore, I appreciate these brotherly relations which and will, naturally and God willing, develop further.

Tunisia presently renders full support to Bosnia. The support is on the diplomatic level, declared and undeclared, on the political level, in the African continent, in its bilateral relations, and at the United Nations.

Our brothers in Tunisia, whether it be the president or the prime minister or the minister of foreign affairs, at any time we have met, have done whatever we asked of them. We fully believe that the relations between Tunisia and Bosnia-Herzegovina will develop in the future, especially after peace is attained, God willing. The future of these relations is good.

[Mehri] On the cease-fire agreement, the Bosnian prime minister said his country's government was willing to adhere to it on condition that the siege imposed on the capital was completely lifted and supplies of electricity and gas returned to normal. He affirmed that Bosnia-Herzegovina was experiencing a difficult and critical stage following the agreement that the international community hoped would be respected and implemented earnestly so that Bosnia could move on to the stage of reconstruction of the damage left by the war.

On the meeting to be held between the European Contact Group and the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] Contact Group, Silajdzic affirmed that the meeting was very important and would give the OIC a chance to use its weight in the interests of the Bosnian cause.

Referring to NATO military operations against the Serbs, Silajdzic said that these operations had made it possible to regain the balance of power because the Serbs were attacking unarmed Bosnians and it was inevitable that the international community should intervene in the interest of the Bosnians. [end recording]

Chairman of Socialist Democrats Movement Arrested

No Explanation for Arrest Given

LD1010144095 *Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 10 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In Tunisia, Mohamed Moad, chairman of the Socialist Democrats Movement, was arrested last night at his home. This was confirmed by his family and a leading official of the party. There has been no official explanation given of the reasons for this arrest.

MDS Deputy Comments on Arrest

LD1010205595 *Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 10 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In Tunisia Mohamed Moad, chairman of the main opposition party, the MDS, the Socialist Democrats Movement, was arrested. Accord-

ing to judicial sources in Tunis, he is accused of having maintained secret and compromising relations, I quote, with a foreign country, which was not named, in exchange for a large sum of money. There is as yet no precise information regarding the foreign country concerned. Observers are said to have immediately to have thought of Libya, with which Mr. Moad maintained public links in the framework of the activities of his party. Mohamed Moad, at any rate, had his house searched last night. Ghislaine Dupont has just telephoned one of the deputies of his party, the MDS, Khemais Chemari. Here is his reaction.

[Begin Chemari recording] The scenario is absolutely scandalous. We have never heard anything, anything about any kind of legal proceedings of the kind referred to hypothetically by this official source, which is as a set up. Mr. Moad sent a letter, a memorandum, to the head of state on 21 September. And, after a certain number of ambiguous and stalling initiatives we observed in the matter of this letter, which was not received by the person to whom it was destined, on 8 October we decided — the expanded session of the political bureau decided — to make this letter public in the form of an open letter to the head of state. The arrest of Mr. Mohamed Moad occurred the same evening. This open letter outlines the situation in the country and calls on the head of state to witness the worrying trends we have been observing for several months in the area of freedoms, information, and above all, the role of the government party, which has returned to the practice and mentality of a single ruling party. [end recording]

Money, Documents Said Found in Home

LD1110090895 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Tunisian news agency [TAP] said yesterday that the leader of the Movement of Socialist Democrats, the largest of the opposition parties in Tunisia, has been arrested.

The same source pointed out that Mr. Mohamed Moad, the leader of the party, was arrested after a search of his home led to the discovery of numerous documents that confirmed the existence of secret collusion relations with a foreign country. The search operation, which took place on 9 October, also resulted in the seizure of money estimated at thousands of dollars.

Western Sahara

Envoy Denounces King Hassan Visit to Laayoune

LD1110101495 (Clandestine) National Radio of the
Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in Arabic
2100 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Salek Sedik, our country's ambassador to Algeria, gave Algerian Radio 1 an interview in which he dealt with the recent developments of our people's struggle for freedom and independence. He stressed that the Moroccan king's planned visit to the capital of our occupied homeland [Laayoune] was another provocation to the international community,

and a belittlement of its endeavors and efforts to organize a free and just referendum to enable the Saharan people express their will in fairness and transparency.

Our ambassador to Algeria also had a similar meeting with Africa No. 1 Radio in which he dealt with the position of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] on the Moroccan king's decision to visit Laayoune. He pointed out that the aforementioned provocative decision constituted a flagrant challenge to the international community, and came at a time when the UN's fourth committee was discussing the issue of Western Sahara as being an issue of decolonization.

Official Reportedly Flees; News Conference Set
MM1110113795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 11 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi President's Protocol Director Breaks Away, Flees The Country"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — An Iraqi opposition group has announced that an official in the Iraqi president's office broke away and fled the country recently and that he will hold a news conference in London tomorrow. Hamid al-Bayati, representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said in his London office yesterday that the former director of President Saddam Husayn's protocol office arrived in London a few days ago after fleeing the country. However, al-Bayati declined to reveal the name of the defecting director. He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone that "special circumstances prevent the announcement of his name ahead of the news conference."

Al-Bayati added that the Iraqi official had worked as a diplomat at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and was then appointed consul general in more than one European state and a charge d'affaires at the Iraqi Embassy in an African state. Then he joined the republican palace in Baghdad as director of protocol in the office of the president of the republic. "He had direct links with Husayn Kamil, director of the security organ at the time."

Husayn Kamil, former industry minister and director of the Military Industrialization Organization, who defected to Jordan two months ago with his brother and their wives, daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, was in charge of the special security service in the eighties before President Saddam Husayn assigned this post to his younger son, 'Udayy [as published].

Al-Bayati said that the new Iraqi dissident had been subjected to interrogation in Baghdad because of some suspicions. "And he was exposed to an assassination attempt in Baghdad, thus he had to flee Iraq."

Opposition Groups Reportedly Met Before Defections

JN0810163895 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic
9 Oct 95 p 6

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, Damascus—AL-MUHARRIR has received a brief report on the minutes of an expanded meeting held by the Iraqi opposition factions in Damascus a few days before General

Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, defected to Jordan in August.

The report shows that the meeting, which was attended by leaders of the Islamic, national, and Kurdish currents in the Iraqi opposition, was not attended by some prominent opposition figures such as Major General Hasan al-Naqib, member of the Presidential Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, and Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former head of the Iraqi Military Intelligence, both of whom believe that Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], is not making serious efforts to form a unified field command from among the opposition factions inside Iraq.

According to the report, this issue was the main topic of this meeting. Sharp differences erupted and remained unresolved due to the dispute between SAIRI and the National Action Coordination Committee [NACC] over approaches. Al-Hakim proposed the idea of forming a field command or preliminary nucleus for it on the grounds that the options available to the opposition are launching a coup or a popular uprising. The nationalists, however, believed that these options are useless before an agreement is reached on the opposition's political platform, and before a national political front is established.

The report cites Mahdi al-'Ubaydi, official in charge of foreign affairs in the NACC, as saying that some progress was made at the meeting in terms of reviving the Iraqi National and Islamic Action Coordination Committee as a basis for action in accordance with the articles of its foundation in 1990. These articles provide for toppling the Iraqi president, establishing political pluralism, preserving the Iraqi people's unity, safeguarding Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and addressing the Kurdish issue in a radical manner based on granting self-rule to the Kurds as part of Iraq's territorial integrity.

The report also points out that Maj. Gen. Hasan al-Naqib refused to attend the meeting because it was held without prior coordination and consultations, and also because he does not trust the proposed plans. According to al-Naqib, many fronts were established and numerous conferences were held, but they did not achieve their goals. These fronts include the UINC that relies on the Kurds, who are now engaged in fierce fighting which will make it impossible to act from northern Iraq.

Moreover, the report says that as part of his plan, al-Hakim proposed carrying out special military operations in the northern and southern regions of Iraq, as well as cooperating with officers in confronting the regime, which is experiencing its weakest stage, as the report

puts it. There are factors inside Iraq that will help overthrow the regime, the report adds.

Saddam Moves Kuwaiti Prisoners From Baghdad

JN1010152395 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1315 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi regime recently moved a large number of the Kuwaiti prisoners it has been holding for more than five years from prisons in Baghdad to prisons in Tikrit and Karkuk. This was recently reported by sources close to the regime's security organs which added that these prisoners were moved to Tikrit and Karkuk by passenger buses with covered windows.

The sources said that the defeated ruler of Baghdad resorts from time to time to moving the Kuwaiti prisoners from one unknown location to another location known only by those who are responsible for protecting the ruling family. He reportedly does this for fear of being discovered by the international committees. Thus, Saddam's lies will be exposed.

The transfer of the Kuwaiti prisoners from Baghdad to other areas stems from the regime's fear that they might be discovered by the members of the press or the parliamentarians who were invited to witness the farce of the referendum on 15 October.

Saddam Meets Turkey's Soysal, Urges Cooperation

NC1010181595 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 5 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by Mehmet Ozkaya: "Turkey Has Made a Mistake"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some time ago the Iraqi Government invited HURRIYET columnist Murtaz Soysal, the former foreign minister, to Baghdad for talks on northern Iraq. He visited Baghdad and held talks with Saddam Husayn, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and several other officials, including the speaker of the Iraqi parliament and others. Tariq 'Aziz gave an official dinner in Soysal's honor, which was attended by six ministers, at which Turkish music was played with an oriental zither and a piano.

Saddam Husayn talked with Soysal in his Baghdad office for two hours and fifteen minutes. Only Tariq 'Aziz and two interpreters attended their meeting. Soysal informed the officials in Ankara of Saddam Husayn's views, which he also summed up to HURRIYET as follows:

The Western Countries Want To Establish a Kurdish State

"Regardless of what the Western countries say, it has become apparent that they want to see an independent Kurdish state established in northern Iraq, which is adjacent to Turkey's southeastern border. We have been dealing with this problem since long before our revolution, in fact since Iraq was ruled by a king. So, we are in a position to know more about the issue than anyone else. The British Government and the Zionists have always focused on this in order to weaken Iraq because our country had declared its independence. Of course, their efforts have influenced not only the tribal leaders but also the people in the area. Naturally, we have reacted from time to time in order to protect our security and territorial integrity. Obviously, there will be no end to the establishment of new states by ethnic groups in the Middle East if they are allowed to do so. There are many problems to be resolved before the tribal structure of the peoples in the region can be changed. National governments are needed to resolve the racial and sectarian problems."

Threat to the Region's Oil

"One important point is: A separate Kurdish state will need an important economic resource in order to be able to stand on its own feet. Oil is the resource in our region. There may be no oil in the areas where the Kurds live, so they will want the oil-rich areas near their territory to be placed under their government's control. That viewpoint is shared not only by the Kurds but also by the Western countries. So, there is a threat to the oil resources in Iraq and Iran.

The essence of the problem is this: A plan has been drawn up against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the countries in the region, particularly Turkey and Iraq. That is why I am talking very frankly to you. Turkey's participation in the Dublin summit was a mistake. Even if your country says that it attended as an observer, its participation implied tacit approval."

Turkey Cannot Resolve the PKK Problem With the Kurds

It is wrong to think that the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] problem can be resolved with the help of the Kurdish leaders, Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, if they are convinced to establish friendly relations with each other. We know them very well. They change their policies in accordance with the approach taken by the countries that are against Iraq. For example, Mustafa Barzani, Mas'ud Barzani's father, was encouraged by the Western countries to take a hostile approach to us. Meanwhile, Jalal Talabani cooperated with the Iraqi

Government. However, he changed his position during the Iran-Iraq war. The countries that support them shift their stance according to Baghdad's oil policy. For example, the former Soviet Union encouraged Kurdish rebellions against Baghdad before Iraq nationalized its oil in 1972 and 1973. Russia changed its policy after our oil resources were nationalized; they informed the Kurds that they should 'hold talks with Baghdad.' In 1970 we reached an agreement on autonomy rights for the Kurds. We prepared to put it into effect in 1974. However, we were unable to do so because of the agreement between Henry Kissinger and the Shah of Iran and the pressure the Shah put on Barzani at the time. The agreement we reached with Barzani and Talabani could not be put into effect because of the U.S. provocations after the Gulf War."

Cooperate With Us

"Turkey must give up trying to find temporary solutions to the situation in northern Iraq. It must consider the matter in the light of past developments. We must resolve the existing problems and do what is right for the people in the region. That is required by the historic ties between Turkey and Iraq and the economic relations they could establish in the future. I am well aware of the difficult conditions that exist at the present time. But, that is why we have politicians. They have to deal with the situation. Turkey may stand to lose if it moves to oppose the injustice that has been done to Iraq. For example, the foreign aid it receives may be suspended. Nevertheless, the duty of politicians is to act in their people's long-term interests."

Referendum Workers Continue To Cast Votes

JN1010163195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1510 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA) — In Baghdad and the governorates, citizens who are entrusted with referendum-related tasks, patients in hospitals, and prisoners who are legally entitled to vote have continued to cast their votes under the supervision of the Higher Commission Supervising the Referendum.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY learned that the judges who are entrusted with supervising the referendum headed this morning for the polling stations, in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Article 19 of Law No 13. of 1995 on the Organization of the Public Referendum. [passage omitted]

Papers Intensify Campaign for Saddam's Presidency

JN1110110695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Iraqi papers published during the period 1-7 October 1995 intensified their campaign for President Saddam Husayn before the public referendum on the presidency which will take place on 15 October. Since 1 October, the papers have carried slogans above their mastheads and at the top of every page hailing the president: "All the people made one pledge: yes, yes to Saddam"; "Yes to Saddam, yes to democracy, yes to dignity"; and "Saddam is a guarantee for freedom, democracy, and Iraq." Some headlines consist of quotations from previous Saddam speeches, such as: "Love your people and you will be Ba'athists"; and "Learn from the people as you play the role of leader." Other headlines have Arab and international connotations, such as: "With dignity and faith we will destroy aggression, elevate the edifice year after year, and live with Saddam's determination"; "Sudanese vice president: leader Saddam Husayn is symbol of Iraq's glory and pride"; "Arab and Foreign personalities: the referendum will further strengthen Iraqi people's confidence in President Saddam Husayn"; "No retreat, always forward"; "Were it not for you, Saddam, Iraq would not have survived"; and "Kurdistan Democratic Party: 'on referendum day, our Kurdish people will say yes to leader Saddam Husayn.'"

Others reflect the country's attitude to major issues, such as "Let us always raise the flag of Allahu Akbar, the flag of Saddam and the faithful"; and "Democracy and the exercise of authority demand close interaction with the people."

The papers also publish pledges of allegiance to President Saddam Husayn. The 4 October AL-JUMHURIYAH publishes on page two a 200-word report saying tribal leaders and notables in Abu Ghurayb "have renewed the pledge of loyalty and absolute allegiance to President Saddam Husayn" and affirmed at a public rally that "they stand one rank behind the flag of Allahu Akbar carried by President Saddam Husayn in defense of great Iraq and the achievements and gains of the 17-30 July Revolution."

The papers also continue to follow up on the preparations for the referendum, reporting the meetings and instructions of the Higher Commission Supervising the Referendum, which is headed by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, and publishing lists of the polling stations in all governorates. On 1 and 2 October, all papers carry a photocopy of the ballot, which contains only one question: "Do you agree to Saddam Husayn assuming the post of president of the Republic of Iraq?" Voters are in-

structed to mark the "Yes" or "No" square on the card. AL-QADISIYAH on 3 October on page four publishes a 500-word report containing instructions on voting procedures. The report says the Higher Commission instructed the Supervisory Committee at each polling station as follows: The committee chairman will open the ballot box in front of committee members to make sure that it is sound and empty of any cards. He will then close the box and enter his remarks in the special referendum minutes. When the voter's identity has been verified, he will be given one ballot and his name will be marked on the electoral roll. When the official time for the voting is over, the committee chairman will announce that and enter his remarks in the special minutes. He will then open the ballot box, count the votes, and record the results in the minutes. The chairman will read the minutes and sign them with the rest of the committee members. The committee chairman will dispatch the minutes, the ballots, the electoral roll, and copies of all other documents in a sealed envelope carrying the number of the polling station, the name of the district, and the name of the governorate to the chairman of the District Supervisory Committee who, in turn, will record the results of the different polling stations on his referendum minutes for the entire district and sign it with other members of the district committee. The chairman of the District Committee will then dispatch all the results to the chairman of the Higher Commission.

The 7 October AL-QADISIYAH publishes on page three a 600-word article by Dr. Sabah Yasin looking beyond the public referendum. The article, which is published under the headline "What About After the Referendum?", says that although the headline seems rather unusual amid current preparations for the referendum, it is in a sense very much connected with the aim of the public referendum. The long-term aim, the writer says, is to create a democratic public life with traditions and formulas, which will strengthen and improve performance at all levels, especially with regard to mutual demands between the individual and society on the one

hand, and the state and the political authority on the other, and also "when the ideological and political leadership clearly decides that the purpose of this exercise is to make democracy a source of power giving political and social institutions a clearer and more influential role in public life."

Therefore, the writer adds, we should transform the referendum from a legitimate constitutional process to a revolutionary activity which derives its meaning and purport from the nature of the current national phase. "At this stage," he says, "the Iraqis are holding both ends of a special and difficult equation, which is expressed by the current struggle responsibility. The circumstances of the aggression and the embargo and the pressure of the political and psychological challenges as well as the economic and social challenges have made the democratic process itself a kind of a counter-challenge, or rather counter-offensive, which we have known in our political literature to mean steadfastness, jihad, and construction in reply to aggression and the embargo. In other words, the Iraqis have proven to be qualified to assume the responsibility of safeguarding the independent national stand as expressed by the many sacrifices they have made in defense of the homeland and its sovereignty and security. These sacrifices are continuing. Thus, waging another national ideological and political battle represented by comprehensive democratic building will only be a continuation of the preparation for the great national battle for reconstruction and progress."

Pupils Renew Saddam's Mandate as President

*JN1110112295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1100 GMT 11 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] More than 5 million pupils in Iraq held a symbolic referendum in their schools today when they raised their hands to renew President Saddam Husayn's mandate, a mandate on which the Iraqis will vote on 15 October.

Rabin To Support U.S. Military Aid to Jordan

TA1110105795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
11 Oct 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During his upcoming visit to the United States, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will discuss the military aid package Washington is giving Jordan, which is centered on the supply of F-16 fighters to the Jordanian Air Force.

Secretary of Defense William Perry wants to hear Rabin's position against the background of the difficulties the administration is facing getting approval for additional aid for Jordan. The military aid to Jordan is due to reach hundreds of millions of dollars.

Perry asked to meet with Rabin during the prime minister's previous visit to Washington two weeks ago, but the meeting did not take place because their schedules did not permit it.

Rabin is expected to tell the Americans that it is important to strengthen Jordan since following its signing of the peace agreement with Israel it is a factor in stabilizing the Middle East. Israel has already made it clear to the United States that it would not oppose the supply of F-16's to Jordan. Rabin has said publicly it is important to bolster the partners to peace militarily as well.

Following the Oslo B signing ceremony in Washington some two weeks ago, Jordan's King Husayn raised in his talks with Rabin the importance of strengthening the Jordanian Army, especially following the desertion of Husayn Kamil from Iraq. Husayn spoke about it also with U.S. Administration leaders. [passage omitted]

The United States promised to grant Jordan a special aid package of transportation equipment and communications to the tune of \$100 million from U.S. Army storage facilities. The House of Representatives Armed Services Committee approved the package, but its transfer still requires additional approvals. Jordan also wants to procure from the United States four Black Hawk helicopters worth \$67 million.

Israel suggested to Jordan to refurbish the aircraft at the Israel Aircraft Industries, thereby reducing the cost, but the proposal aroused opposition from U.S. aircraft manufacturers, which want to do the job themselves.

Activists Petition U.S. To Move Embassy

TA1110102095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
11 Oct 95 p 8

[Report by Shlomo Tzazna]

[FBIS Translated Text] The right wing has initiated a campaign to have the U.S. Embassy transferred from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. An operational command of right-wing and Likud activists, headed by Zalman Shoval, a former ambassador to Washington who is in charge of Likud foreign relations, yesterday began signing up Jerusalem passersby to a petition aimed at getting 100,000 signatures.

The petition, which will be signed at stands in several locations around the country and through postcards, will be sent to the U.S. ambassador to Israel.

"We must influence the U.S. Administration to respond positively to the proposal by 61 Senators to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem," Shoval said. "The vote on transferring the embassy to Jerusalem takes place on 22 October. By then, we will have tens of thousands of signatures supporting the transfer of the embassy."

Prisoner Release Proceeding; 960 To Be Released

TA1010142995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1300 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that 160 prisoners have been released from the Qezi'ot Prison. One bus took the prisoners to the Gaza Strip and several others took prisoners to Judea and Samaria.

Five security prisoners were released from the Nabulus prison. Our correspondent Dani Zagen reports that dozens of family members are waiting at the Junayd Prison near Nabulus, but so far no prisoners have been released from this prison.

Twenty-six security prisoners incarcerated in the Nafha Prison have signed the pledge to avoid any terrorist activity. Preparations for their release are almost finished.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports there is a further delay in the release of criminal prisoners. After it was agreed that they would be handed over to the Palestinian Authority [PA] — which will decide what to do with them — it now transpires that nobody in the PA is prepared to handle them.

Our correspondent notes that 960 prisoners are slated to be released today, most of them security prisoners.

Over 400 Palestinian Prisoners Freed 'So Far'

TA1010184995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] So far, 192 Palestinian criminal prisoners have been released today. An additional 295 criminals will be released over the next hour. Palestinian Authority representatives received the prisoners and their files.

Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that 233 security prisoners have already been released. Some 127 more are expected to be released during the night. [passage omitted]

Radio: Some 800 Palestinian Prisoners Released

TA1110055595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Prison Services last night released some 800 Palestinian security and criminal detainees; 89 criminal detainees remained in jail after Palestinian representatives failed to come and pick them up. Three security prisoners refused to sign pledges to refrain from future terrorist activity and remained in prison.

In another development, some 20 Iraqis being detained in Israeli jails after crossing the border were due to be freed and transferred to the Palestinian autonomy, but no representatives from the self-rule government showed up to pick them up as well.

Press Views Prisoner Release Issue

TA1010152295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Several papers published on 10 October carry editorial comment on the release of the female Palestinian prisoners, some stating that Israel should abide by the Oslo B accord and release all of them, others criticizing the government for this stipulation and criticizing the accord in general.

In its 900-word editorial on page B1, entitled "Political Wisdom and Legal Argumentation," Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ declares that whatever the deeds of the female prisoners, once the Israeli Government decided to release all these prisoners it must do so. "'All female prisoners will be freed at the first stage of the release,' the accord stipulates, without any additions or conditions, and we must do so, painfully, but with courage and fairness."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV, in its 300-word editorial on page 3 of the HAYOM supplement, entitled "President's Bypass," claims that the low profile of the official Palestinian reaction should not be interpreted as acceptance of the Israeli refusal. "Street pressure and the fact that

the 'security prisoners' turned into a prominent symbol of the Palestinian struggle will not allow a prolonged delay in solving the problem" and several "especially creative brains" are probably already at work, planning "a president's bypass," which will be "the savior of the 'female prisoners of Zion.'"

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT carries two editorials on the subject on page 2, each about 200 words long. Referring to Foreign Minister Peres' remark that the president violated the interim agreement, one of the editorials, entitled "An Internal Problem," contends that the problem is not Peres laying the blame on the president and shirking responsibility for this loophole of ignoring the president's powers, but, as with the extradition point in the first accord, "where else did those legal experts err and deceive themselves and others?"

The second YEDI'OT AHARONOT editorial, entitled "Idle Threats," claims that PLO elements are playing with "fire" when they threaten not to fulfill clauses in the accord, such as rescinding the Palestinian Covenant, in response to the prisoners issue. 'Arafat, apparently intentionally, leaves these threats to his aides, but "he should not be allowed to hide behind them, nor should we play naive and wait until the date fixed for the cancellation of this covenant, in the meantime behaving as if nothing had been said."

In a 1,400-word editorial on page 6, entitled "Terrorists as POW's," Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English states that "by refusing to release all the female terrorists in its custody, Israel is violating the agreement it has just signed in Washington," but "it is likely that the government will find a 'compromise' which will circumvent the president's decision." The POST terms the failure to consider a presidential refusal "the same shoddiness and dilettantism which characterized Oslo 1," stressing that "Israel's eagerness to sign accords seems far more powerful than the crucial need to watch the contracts' fine print." According to the POST, if anybody has "blood on his hands," it is "Arafat himself;" "why, then, discriminate against the lowly 'soldiers' who merely carried out his orders?" The paper also raps the "shameful, racist distinction in not applying this criterion of 'blood on their hands' to Palestinian terrorists who killed collaborators, concluding that "it is, then, not principle which guides the government's decisions on prisoner release but political expediency." Sooner or later, the PLO's demand to free all prisoners will be met, and "the government, for the first time in Israel's history, has bestowed legitimacy and respectability on terrorism." For decades Israel was a world leader in the antiterror war while now "it has knocked out the

moral underpinnings of its war against terrorism in the future."

Tel Aviv HATZOFE, in its 1,200-word editorial on page 2, entitled "Release of Prisoners" declares that the release of prisoners is part of an agreement called a peace agreement, but reference is rather to "a state of continued war, not a state of peace." The agreement is not with a state but with a terror organization which cannot sign for other such organizations who decided to continue the war, so that "a release of security prisoners in such a situation is a very irresponsible act." Oslo B, particularly the prisoner release clause, may result in increased terror. Hence, "what the president did in preventing the release of two female murderers is the least he could do in the complex situation in which he found himself due to the present government."

Rabin, Aides Allow Return of Senior Fatah Members

TA1110073695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0505 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three leaders of Fatah's terror apparatus, heads of the organization's western sector, yesterday entered the autonomy area. Two of them, Abu-Firas al-Liftawi and Mahmud al-'Alul, are responsible for dozens of terrorist acts in Israel. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the defense establishment leaders approved their entry. The defense establishment says that the two are slated to fight against the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem has learned the details:

Abu-Firas al-Liftawi and Mahmud al-'Alul, two of the leaders of Fatah's western sector, the organization's central terrorist apparatus for many years, entered the Jericho autonomous area very secretly at noon yesterday. They lunched with General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the Palestinian police in the West Bank, and later secretly traveled to the Gaza Strip to meet with Yasir 'Arafat. The entry of the two was approved by the defense establishment and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. At a special consultation held at Rabin's office on 6 October, with the participation of the chief of staff; the Intelligence chief; the Shin Bet head; and Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, defense establishment leaders expressed the assessment that it is better to allow the Palestinians to position strong people in West Bank towns who are acceptable to the local residents and who can crush the Islamic organizations' terror. The defense establishment also approved the entry of Gen. 'Izz-al-Din al-Sharif, another leader of Fatah's western sector, into the autonomous areas. The defense establishment reached the conclusion that there should be a strong rule in area A which will be subject to the

Palestinian Authority's exclusive control, as was made clear to 'Arafat in his last meeting with Foreign Minister Peres. During the consultation, the Shin Bet head accused the Palestinians of not doing enough in their fight against terror.

'Arafat wants to appoint Abu-Firas al-Liftawi as governor of Ramallah, Mahmud al-'Alul as governor of Nabulus, and 'Izz-al-Din al-Sharif as governor of Tulkarm. Abu-Firas al-Liftawi headed the Jerusalem committee of the western sector's apparatus. He is responsible for dozens of attacks on Israelis, including an attack in Jerusalem in 1971 and in activating Archbishop Carpucci. Mahmud al-'Alul headed the Nabulus committee, was detained in Israel in 1967, and was expelled to Jordan. He too was responsible for dozens of terror incidents, including the booby-trapped refrigerator in Jerusalem's Zion Square in 1975. Al-'Alul was also the operational officer of the western sector's command and was active in Lebanon, Jordan, and Tunisia. Upon the death of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], each of them tried to make it to the top of the western sector's apparatus. The defense establishment admits that reference is to archmurderers, but says they are the strongmen in the area who can fight Hamas. In the meantime, the movement of the three was limited to the autonomy area only and they will not receive VIP cards.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 11 October reports that "the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has reacted to this with great fury. The council's spokesman told our correspondent Gil Litman that the secret entry of the heads of Fatah's terror apparatus into Eretz Yisra'el's boundaries points to insensitivity by the prime minister and defense minister. The nonrelease of four female terrorists is nothing compared to this act, and it seems that Yitzhaq Rabin has lost all reason in promising that these murderers will fight terror and Hamas.

"The Likud says that the government has adopted a systematic and vicious policy of cleansing murderers. 'Uzi Landau, head of the Likud Bureau, told our correspondent Pe'erli Shazar that placing terrorists whose hands are stained with Jewish blood in senior positions makes a mockery of the rule of law and deals a heavy blow to the feelings of the victims' families.

"Tzomet head Refa'el Eytan says that the government's decision to allow senior terrorists to return to the autonomy areas points to a total loss of reason by the political echelon, which is abandoning the security of the settlers who are citizens of Israel."

Peres Said Pushing Autonomy Elections Forward

TA1010143895 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew
10 Oct 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel is pressuring the PLO to hold the autonomy council elections as early as possible rather than waiting for the withdrawal from Hebron — expected to take place late March — for fear that this delay would give the terror organizations enough time to carry out murderous attacks which would cause a delay in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal in Judaea and Samaria.

Israeli sources estimate that the autonomy elections will be an irreversible move which will also allow for the continuation of the political process.

The above claims were made by sources in the defense establishment, who say that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is behind the pressure. They say Peres has asked 'Arafat to agree to the autonomy elections being held prior to the withdrawal from Hebron. 'Arafat has still not responded to the proposal and has still not proposed a date for the elections.

Behira Bardugo, the foreign minister's media adviser, yesterday told our correspondent that the decision on the timing of the elections is an internal Palestinian issue and Israel has no objection to any date they select. She denied that the foreign minister's desire to push forward the elections stems from the fear of terrorist attacks.

Our correspondent notes that an Israeli proposal for the IDF to vacate Hebron for the three days of the elections and return after they are completed, if the Hebron bypass road is not completed on time, has been removed from the agenda and no longer exists.

Our correspondent also notes that Israel has not answered the Palestinian request that it commit itself to a detailed timetable for a withdrawal from the cities. Israel is adhering to the official argument that the withdrawal hinges on the rate of construction of the bypass roads, and is refusing to commit itself to specific dates.

Citizens Said To Visit Iraq Via Turkish Border

TA1010152195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
10 Oct 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Yonatan Haleli]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli citizens have recently visited Iraq and met their family members who live in that country.

The Israelis arrived in Turkey, from where they traveled to Iraq's northern border, the area under Kurdish con-

trol. The Turkish policemen permit any Israeli whose passport states he was born in Iraq to cross the border into Iraq. Several hundred meters after the border a Kurd guide waits for the Israelis and leads them to their destination. [passage omitted]

Yesterday it was learned that several Israelis have reached Baghdad this way to visit their families and the graves of their ancestors. "The road to Baghdad is dangerous but with reliable bodyguards and special payments it is possible to enter Iraq without any problem," says an Israeli who recently visited Iraq in this manner. To reach Baghdad, thousands of dollars are required for hiring bodyguards and guides who organize sleeping accommodations for the infiltrators.

It is estimated that several dozen Israelis, mainly of Kurdish and Baghdad origin have visited Baghdad and nearby cities. An Israeli source in Turkey said on the eve of Sukkoth: "Only few know about it, but this phenomenon does exist."

NEQUDA Press Review for Sep

TA1010145795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a review of the September issue of NEQUDA, the monthly Hebrew-language magazine published by the Society for the Advancement of Settlement and Absorption in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Jordan Valley, which serves as the political organ of the Jewish settlers in the territories. These reports include summaries of all articles, reports, interviews, commentaries, and other items with a bearing on political affairs published in NEQUDA.

CONTENTS:

1. In Lieu of an Editorial
2. The Territorial Struggle Is Secondary
3. And What If the "People Decide" To Give Up on Eretz Yisra'el

IN LIEU OF AN EDITORIAL

This column, published on pages 20 and 21, consists of four essays. A 400-word essay entitled "We Can Face Up to Even Harsh Decrees," says that for the first time in the history of the Jewish nation, the government is readily giving away parts of Israel to foreigners. At a time when the major cities of Judaea and Samaria are being handed over to the "independent rule of the coming terror state," it is clear to everyone just how "very important is Jewish settlement in Judaea and Samaria. Had it not been there, the entire territory would have been given to the PLO." In view of the fact that this is merely an interim stage, "if we want to survive, we

must prepare to frustrate the next stage, 'the permanent arrangement,' in which our own homes and settlements could be cut down too." The essay states that, aware of the importance of its mission, the Zionist settlers will endure the crisis and "will not let them wipe out Jewish settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza."

Another 600-word essay called "'This Is Our Land' (and Our State Too)" discusses the activities of the Zo Artzenu [This Is Our Land] Movement, viewed as the "leader of the protest movements against the government's policy of surrender and withdrawal." It says that, although it has earned this title, "its activities, and mainly parts of its ideology as announced by its leaders, do not coincide with the points of origin and beliefs of many in the Greater Israel camp, including some who take part in its activities." It is too early to determine whether the activities promote the main goal, but "it is hard to accept a situation in which a group of young people — no matter how appropriate their aim may be — declare that they no longer recognize the legitimacy of the state and its laws." The essay argues that "it is precisely because Zo Artzenu is so successful in garnering the support of the many, that it must be extra responsible."

THE TERRITORIAL STRUGGLE IS SECONDARY

This 1,000-word article by Dr. Ya'akov Hasday, "a historian and legal expert," discusses the threats facing the settlements in Judaea and Samaria: "The immediate — the Labor and Meretz rule; and the long run — a Likud rule." Hasday argues that, though fighting the immediate threat is natural, it is also convenient because the settlers and their leaders have always been better in "action than in planning ahead." We have seen, the article says, that the settlement campaign can be stopped and even turned back, hence "we must not assume that if a pro-settler government comes to power, it will be a final move that will solve all the problems." "There

is no indication that the Likud has learned its lesson, and it may come to power mainly because the people will have lost faith in Labor." It will not mean that the Eretz Yisra'el camp has gained power, nor should it be assumed that the security of Israel will improve. Those who favor deferring or canceling the implementation of the Oslo Accords, must realize that, as a result "terror will intensify, and the Likud will have no magic cure."

In order for the settlement enterprise to survive, Hasday says, "most of the efforts should not be in expanding them, but in bolstering the settlements," with "houses built like fortresses." The settlers must "cut themselves off from state budgets as much as possible," and "special attention must be paid to relations with Arab villages." The Palestinian villagers may be offered choosing a status in which they are "not Israeli citizens, but will be granted Israeli passports and the right to work in Israel." The article concludes by stating that the current problems facing Israel are the result of a "deep and profound crisis at the roots of Zionism." He asks: "Will the answer to these problems come from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza?"

AND WHAT IF THE "PEOPLE DECIDE" TO GIVE UP ON ERETZ YISRA'EL

This 2,500-word legalistic article by Elyaqim Ha'etzni rejects the notion of holding a referendum on the withdrawal from the West Bank, sponsored by extra-governmental movements, because the rule of the people may not always be the right one. Citing historical examples in which majorities were wrong, Ha'etzni argues that some issues should not be presented for the people to decide because democratic processes and majorities have led various peoples to disasters. He asks those who favor holding a referendum what would happen "if the people decide that (for the sake of 'peace' and through democratic means) the Law of Return and immigration to Israel should be abolished?"

Israeli Request To Shelter Collaborators Rejected

JN0910095895 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 9 Oct 95
p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources say that the Jordanian Government categorically rejected an Israeli request to allow hundreds of collaborators with the Israeli authorities in the West Bank and Gaza to reside in Jordan to save their lives.

The informed sources added that the Israeli request seeks to resolve the problem of thousands of West Bankers and Gazans who collaborated with the Israeli authorities after 1967 and who expressed a desire to leave the West Bank and Gaza, fearing the punishment of the Palestinian people because of their disgraceful role in helping the Israeli authorities harm West Bank and Gaza citizens throughout the years of occupation.

The sources said that the Israeli authorities asked the Jordanian Government to allow hundreds of collaborators to reside in Jordan. However, the Israeli request was officially rejected.

The Israeli authorities recently formed a special committee to care for more than 30,000 collaborators from the West Bank and Gaza that will provide them with security protection in light of the increasing popular demand in the West Bank and Gaza to punish them.

Government To Prosecute Journalist for Libel

LD0810164895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1100 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 8 Oct — A Jordanian court will next week consider a case lodged by the Jordanian public prosecutor against Mr. Salamah Ni'mat, the Amman correspondent of the London based AL-HAYAH newspaper, following the publication of his report on 20 September under the title "Jordanian Fears of Iraqi Infiltration."

The correspondent, quoting a Jordanian source in his article, said that there are a number of Jordanian writers, journalists, and officials who are receiving money and presents from Iraq with the aim of creating a position as a counterweight to the official Jordanian position toward Iraq.

Mr. Ni'mat, who was released on bail, told a KUNA correspondent in Amman yesterday that he has enough information to prove what he said in his article in AL-HAYAH. He added that he will disclose neither the source of his information nor the names of the Jordanian writers, journalists, and officials who are receiving money and presents from Iraq. However, Mr. Ni'mat said, he will reveal the sources and the list of

the "beneficiaries" from Iraq before the court if he is asked to.

Ni'mat added that he has formed a defense panel to defend him before the court consisting of barrister Tahir Hikmat, who has occupied the posts of information minister, justice minister, and culture minister in previous Jordanian governments and is now a member of the Jordanian upper house of parliament, barrister Salih al-Jirudi, barrister Rabi' Hamza, and barrister Ayman Abu-Sharkh who stood for his defense in court last Tuesday.

The public prosecutor has accused AL-HAYAH correspondent Salamah Ni'mat of libel and defamation in breach of the penal code, and of breaching the publications act by publishing a report without due scrutiny of the facts.

Ni'mat has said that he reserves the right to sue the journalists and writers who have defamed him in the Jordanian press, after the conclusion of the case.

In reply to questions by the Kuwaiti news agency, Dr. Ahmad al-Mazin, director of Arab and foreign press at the Jordanian Ministry of Information, said that Ni'mat was not accredited to the Information Ministry because he did not include in his accreditation application a notification from the Jordanian journalists union to confirm his membership of the union. He said that Ni'mat's work as AL-HAYAH's correspondent was in open breach of regulations pertaining to Arab and foreign media correspondents, which stipulate that a correspondent must be a member of the Jordanian journalists union. He added that this was also in breach of the Jordanian prime minister's statement in that regard which stipulated that Arab and foreign media correspondents must be members of the journalists union in the case of Jordanian nationals, which applied to AL-HAYAH's correspondent.

Al-Kabariti's UN General Assembly Address Reported

JN1010214895 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 2000 GMT 10 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "News at Ten"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has urged the international community to adopt a new world order based on humanitarian bases. He said in his address to the 50th session of the UN General Assembly, that the Islamic countries should be effective partners in the new world order. Al-Kabariti asserted that Jordan was committed to peace, democracy, and development. He said that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has laid the foundations

for balanced relations in the region as it relied on equal and mutual interests between the two countries.

The Foreign Minister underlined the importance of security in the Gulf Region. Al-Kabariti called for lifting sanctions on the Iraqi people, asserting the unity and integrity of the Iraqi territories. The Foreign minister reiterated Jordan's support for the Bosnian Government in its efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

Al-Kabariti on Ties With Iraq, Peace Process

MM1010112795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
8 Oct 95 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dirgham] The role played by Jordan last August aroused the feelings and suspicions of some Arab parties regarding Jordan's wishes and ambitions. Could you explain Jordan's regional role?

[Al-Kabariti] I do not believe the matter calls for an explanation. Jordan's role has always been constructive and positive on the issues of peace, work for the promotion of a [joint] Arab stand, and attempts to build bridges between all the Arab states and reach a complete and comprehensive Arab concept of Arab security that would take into consideration the constant pan-Arab principles and adopt to and blend with international changes. What has happened and is happening in Iraq concerns everyone. As Lebanese Foreign Minister (Faris Buwayz) said in his speech (to the UN General Assembly), borders no longer prevent internal developments in any country from affecting neighboring countries and even the countries of the region. Quite honestly, we believe that from the beginning of the Gulf crisis to this day, the issue of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has assumed such magnitude that it is not enough just to concern ourselves with some "cliches" which call on Iraq to commit itself to the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, and to think that that would restore Arab relations and the unity of the Arab position. We believe that there should be intensive Arab meetings that would use a strategic approach and concept of what we want for this nation in the future — what roles in the new world order and the new regional order. The Jordanian position is one which is based on the constant pan-Arab principles and the need for a comprehensive Arab outlook in addressing events.

[Dirgham] But the impression and the talk is of establishing a belt through Iraq, Jordan, and Israel — an Iraq other than the Iraq of today and the regime of today —

with a view to creating a formidable force and reputation. Is that what you are working for?

[Al-Kabariti] What we work for is that there should be no more than one united Iraq. Our aim is to ensure Iraq's safety and territorial integrity and ensure that Iraq continues to be an Arab state and that its sovereignty is a clear and genuine Arab sovereignty taking into consideration the interests of all sectarian and ethnic parties (in that country). We only want Iraq to regain its health and take its natural place in its Arab environment, and we want it to continue to carry out its mission in the region and the world.

[Dirgham] You have raised the idea of a new map of Iraq, a federation or something....

[Al-Kabariti] We did not propose a new map for Iraq. We propose the idea which is advocated by every Arab and every Arab official, which is that the unity of the Iraqi territory and people should be preserved.

[Dirgham] Some say that there must be change in Iraq, meaning the regime, and that there must a federation or a kind of federation in that country. Is that your view?

[Al-Kabariti] A federation is an option but it is not the only option. That must be clear. We do not want any part of the Iraqi people or territory to be separated from Iraq on national, ethnic, or religious pretexts. That requires a clear stand.

[Dirgham] You want federation and unity at the same time?

[Al-Kabariti] We maintain that a federation within the Iraqi region, within the one Iraqi state, is an option but not the only option. But we say that there should be a formula that takes into consideration the interests of all the effective political parties in Iraq so that there would be no political or military action in Iraq that would lead to any separation of any popular or geographical part, something that could fragment and tear apart Iraq as we know it.

[Dirgham] But one view is that a federation would ultimately mean some kind of partition of Iraq, meaning that any talk of unity is just for local consumption and not genuine.

[Al-Kabariti] If the U.S. federation meant partition of the United States, that might be true. We are talking about fulfillment of an objective, not about raising a slogan. Once again, a federation might be a way of ensuring unity of the Iraqi people. But if the question is, is there an intention to fragment Iraq, then we say that we want coordinated Arab efforts to prevent the fragmentation and partition of Iraq.

[Dirgham] Some states in the region, some officials in the Gulf, are saying that it is impossible to coexist with Iraq under Saddam Husayn's regime. Do you share that view?

[Al-Kabariti] That question should be addressed to those who say and advocate that. On the question of the regime in Iraq, when talking about democracy, freedom, and pluralism, we say that the Iraqi people should have the opportunity to say what they want for themselves. That is our view.

[Dirgham] Do you agree with those who say that it is impossible to coexist with Saddam Husayn's regime?

[Al-Kabariti] That is their business. We are not calling for the downfall or change of a regime but for the salvation of Iraq.

[Dirgham] The question of Iraq is not confined to just Iraqi territory. It has a regional dimension. Some say that there must be a change of government in Iraq through an Arab consensus, or at least consensus of the neighboring states with a view to having a change of regime imposed from abroad. Do you subscribe to that thinking?

[Al-Kabariti] We do not subscribe to that line of thinking. Our thinking is that if there is to be a change in Iraq it should be through the consensus of the Iraqi people.

[Dirgham] What about the states of the region surrounding Iraq?

[Al-Kabariti] The states around Iraq, including Jordan, are concerned about what happens in Iraq and the possible dangers that could result from its fragmentation and partition, the possible threat to peace and security in the region, and the possible emergence of ethnic statelets as a result of the Iraqi people's suffering and as a result of the blockade. Our aim and endeavor is for that not to happen.

[Dirgham] Do you in Jordan feel that you hold the Iraq card?

[Al-Kabariti] We were never ones who would fight others or who would use others in a fight. We have always fought to gain the trust of others. And since we do not accept to be a card in anyone else's pocket, we cannot say that anyone could be a card in our pocket.

[Dirgham] After last August's events, how would you describe Jordanian-Iraqi relations?

[Al-Kabariti] Relations are normal. The lines of communication and transport are open, the borders are open, and oil supplies are reaching us as before. There has been no change apart from the claims and allegations

in the media. There may be some official coolness but it has not at all affected the existing close and strong commercial relations.

[Dirgham] Kuwait, and perhaps other Gulf states, offered to compensate you for the oil Jordan gets from Iraq. What happened after that?

[Al-Kabariti] We are trying to find alternatives not only regarding the question of oil but everything else that Jordan depends upon, be it food imports or oil imports. We are always looking for alternatives and better terms. No alternative has been offered to us nor anything that could be construed as an attempt to pressure Jordan to sever its commercial or oil ties with Iraq.

[Dirgham] But Kuwait did offer to provide an alternative to Iraqi oil.

[Al-Kabariti] My contacts and talks with the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister (Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad) did not broach that subject at all. All our discussions focused on issues of diplomatic representation, resumption of flights, and resumption of direct telephone and postal communication. These are more technical than political issues, with the exception of the question of the Jordanian Embassy in Kuwait.

[Dirgham] In the wake of recent developments and contacts with Kuwait, how would you describe Jordan's relations with the Gulf states, especially Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Kabariti] I am very pleased with the development of Jordanian-Gulf relations which are naturally excellent with Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain.

They are developing and are set to grow and get stronger with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. With the exception of Kuwait, all the Gulf states now have ambassadors in Jordan. We hope that the dialogue between us and Kuwait will continue with a view to normalizing relations. I cannot say that there has been tangible progress between us and Kuwait, but there has been considerable progress with the rest of the Gulf states and we are satisfied with that progress.

[Dirgham] It seems that there are pressures inside Jordan regarding its attitude towards Iraq. There are claims that King Husayn has had to bide his time because of opposition in Jordan to any change in Jordan's policy on Iraq.

[Al-Kabariti] There is an active and effective political force in Jordan. It represents political parties with known views. We believe that Jordanian public opinion is enlightened, realistic, and objective. The Jordanian decisionmaker always takes into consideration the views

of Jordanian public opinion but in the end we measure matters on the basis of their effect on Jordan's strategic interests.

[Dirgham] You have personally criticized the Syrian reaction to the Jordanian role to the point of accusing it of double standards. Is that a part of the jockeying for roles or is it a continuation of the lack of trust between Arab leaders?

[Al-Kabariti] I commented on some Syrian criticism of the Amman conference and the insinuation that Jordan was interfering in the internal affairs of other Arab states. My statements were a reaction to positions taken by some Syrian parties towards Jordan. I repeat that the scales and measures we use must be the same. Going to Barcelona means going to a conference that would discuss political, security, social, humanitarian, economic, and financial partnerships including Israel. We do not understand how that can be acceptable in Barcelona and not acceptable at an international conference in Amman with discussions only confined to economic development that would reflect positively on the states of the region including Israel.

[Dirgham] Do you see that as something in the context of Jordanian-Syrian relations and rivalry over roles?

[Al-Kabariti] I do not believe that Jordan is competing with anyone for a role to play. We believe that Jordan has a role and a mission, and we see Jordan itself as a cause. We insist on playing our role, carrying out our mission, and defending our cause in fulfillment of our interests which ultimately are part of the concept of pan-Arab security and pan-Arab strategic interests. If anyone sees anything wrong in that, that is their affair. As far as we are concerned, we are not in competition to take over anyone's role and we believe that every state must have a role and strategic concept in line with its interests. Coordination, cooperation, and understanding do not at all mean agreement. Differences are a very natural thing. That is why any advocate of the principle of coordination, understanding, and cooperation should take into consideration the fact that differences could occur and that common interests not the interests of just one state should be taken into consideration.

[Dirgham] Do you fear the implementation of what Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said in his speech to the General Assembly about having to "obstruct" the bilateral agreements such as the Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli agreements? Do you fear that the threat to hamper the agreements might be carried out?

[Al-Kabariti] The Taba agreement (on interim self-rule) is an extension of the Oslo agreement. I believe that the wisdom, patience, realism, and objectivity of

the Palestinian negotiators made it possible, through the Taba agreement, to lay the foundations for the negotiations on the final phase.

That, therefore, lays the foundations of the phase for building a Palestinian state. That, in my view, is an achievement in itself. I never heard of an independence document or treaty that met all the demands and achieved all the objectives all at once. It is a matter of gradual stages. I believe that the Palestinian negotiators accomplished something that deserves every backing and support. We in Jordan will back and support it.

[Dirgham] The question was about the Syrian threat to obstruct the agreements.

[Al-Kabariti] It is not in Syria's interest to obstruct the agreements. It is in Syria's interest to view these agreements as peripheries contributing to the generalization of the peace process and as a base from which it could proceed to achieve its objectives, which we agree with, including the need for an Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders.

[Dirgham] But on the question of obstruction, do you read that message as a threat to take measures against Jordan and the Palestinians?

[Al-Kabariti] Logically, when the proposed strategic option is peace and when diplomatic efforts are focused on achieving peace, a negotiator cannot use the obstruction of peace on other tracks as a negotiating card. These tracks should be viewed as integral parts each complementing the other. The idea of a unilateral or singular approach does not apply here because what Egypt achieved opened the way for achievement on the Jordanian-Israeli track which opened the way for what is being accomplished now on the Palestinian track. That, in my view, will in the future extend to the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. I am optimistic about the possibility of progress in the future.

[Dirgham] But the Syrian view is that the Jordanian and Palestinian "haste" negatively affects Syrian national and regional interests. The Syrians believe that your haste has been at their expense.

[Al-Kabariti] I understood the question and of course I reject the idea of haste. When we see that our interest is served in a certain case we pursue and seek to fulfill that interest. We always maintain that the peace tracks should not be hampered and obstructed in the interest of one sole track, namely the Syrian track. I believe that these tracks should serve one another, and I still insist that the Palestinian track and what has been achieved on the Egyptian and Jordanian tracks are peripheries which support the Syrian track.

[Dirgham] You have spoken of the need for Arab coordination and accord. Should Jordan, at this juncture, not try in some way to reassure Syria and Egypt so they would not feel that Jordan is trying to secure a special place for itself at the expense of others?

[Al-Kabariti] There is no disagreement between us and Egypt. A meeting was held between His Majesty King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak in Washington last week. I believe that the only way to reassure all Arab parties about the unity of the Arab position is to sit down, talk, discuss, consult, and debate the question of a strategic concept to govern all tracks, not a single concept or a single-country interest. That is what we always advocate and work for.

[Dirgham] Will you therefore take the initiative and move toward Syria to improve the atmosphere?

[Al-Kabariti] I had a long meeting with the Syrian foreign minister on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meetings and I explained the Jordanian position to him. I believe that the Syrian side now needs to explain its position to make us feel fully that the imaginary dispute between us is totally unjustified. What Jordan seeks and works for is support for the Syrian position in the negotiations with the Israelis to enable it to achieve its objectives.

Minister Approves Merger of 3 Political Parties

JN0810191495 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has approved the merger of the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, and the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party into one party called the Jordanian Unionist Democratic Party [al-hizb al-dimuqrati al-wahdawi al-urduni].

This ends the legal person of each of the above parties. It should be recalled that the aforementioned three parties held their constituent congress on 7-8 September, when they dissolved themselves and announced their merger into one party. Thus, the number of Jordanian parties registered at the Ministry of Interior becomes 21.

Arab States Urged To Prevent Iraq's Breakup

JN0910151595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
9 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan is urging other Arab states to prevent Iraq from breaking into religious and ethnic mini-states, Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti said in remarks published on Sunday [8 October].

"We are concerned with what is happening in Iraq and with the danger to the region's security posed by this country's collapse and break-up into ethnic mini-states," Mr. al-Kabariti told the London-based al-Hayah newspaper.

Iraq's unity is in jeopardy because of the suffering of its people and the U.N. sanctions imposed on the country after it invaded Kuwait in 1990, he told the Arabic daily.

He said Jordan would work to preserve Iraq's unity and urged other Arab states to do the same. Jordan did not want Iraq to be divided for ethnic or religious reasons, but could accept a state built along federal lines.

"We believe the interests of parties and political forces in Iraq should be taken into account to prevent any political or military action which would provoke some of the people or part of the country into seceding," he said.

Shi'ite Muslims constitute between 45 and 55 per cent of Iraq's 18 million people, with Sunni Arabs accounting for 20 to 30 per cent and the Kurds around 20 per cent.

Mr. al-Kabariti meanwhile criticised Syria for blocking Middle East peace. "It is not in Syria's interest to block (Arab-Israeli) accords. On the contrary it must realise that these accords can contribute to the peace process.

"The different tracks of the peace process cannot be delayed in the interest of the Syrian track" of negotiations with Israel, he said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told the United Nations on Tuesday that Damascus would reexamine its role in the peace process if the Israeli-Palestine Liberation organisation (PLO) accords were used to harm Syrian interests.

While Jordan has signed a peace treaty with Israel and the Palestinians have struck deals for autonomy from the Jewish state, Syria and its ally Lebanon have failed to achieve any breakthroughs.

Mr. al-Kabariti said he could not understand why Syria was refusing to take part in the Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Amman planned for October, which is also to be attended by Israel.

Syria has agreed to participate in a Nov. 27-29 conference in Barcelona, Spain, which will be attended by Mediterranean countries, including Israel.

Article Discusses Iraq, King Husayn's Role

95LH0277A London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
1 Sep 95 p 27

[Article by Sami al-Hajj: "King Husayn Declares Start of War To Topple Baghdad's Regime; Lack of Internal Alternative Revives Possibilities of Hashemite Solution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] King Husayn has severed the last bridges of political contact with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and has kept all his bridges with the Iraqi people open. On the other hand, the king has asserted that he will not boycott Iraq economically and will not shut, in the Iraqi people's face, their only window to the outside world and the only lung through which they continue to breathe under the umbrella of the stifling economic blockade which has been imposed on their country for nearly five years.

The Jordanian monarch, who is tied to Iraq and the Iraqis by blood ties, neighborly relations, and a historical partnership, seemed to be deeply emotional while delivering his televised address, whose words he had chosen with extreme care, first to the Jordanian people and second to the Iraqi people and to other peoples of the world, not to mention these peoples' leaders. In his address, the monarch said something to the effect that the war to topple the Iraqi regime has started, that this regime must be replaced, and that he will stand with the Iraqi people until their long night ends with the death of this regime.

This royal Jordanian position was not a surprise. It has been expected and anticipated in the wake of the developments which followed the defection of General Husayn Kamil, the Iraqi president's son in law, and his colleagues to the sanctuary of the king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan out of fear for their lives. But the announcement of this position the way it has been announced can be considered a declaration of an international and regional war to topple the Iraqi president and his regime. It is also tantamount to royal approval of the wish of the United States to make Jordan the base from which this war is launched. Furthermore, it is tantamount to consent to the immense subsequent consequences emanating to Jordan and to its monarch during and after the war, not to mention the dangers this position entails.

It is not essential or expected that this war will be waged with military means, but it is certain that it will be a harsh psychological-political war. This war may be short or protracted, but it will make Jordan the center leading the battles against the Iraqi regime and its president, who has a historical record abounding with ferocity in

his defense of himself and of his survival in power. Nobody expects him to give up this power willingly or under the impact of a political isolation which will get even tighter now that the Jordanian monarch has chosen to join the broad regional and international camp which has been seeking to topple the Iraqi president for a long time. The monarch has taken advantage of the cracks developing within the family group controlling power in Baghdad to boost this endeavor and to put removal of the Iraqi president at the top of his priorities.

The position chosen by King Husayn for Jordan as the center of the offensive to bring about the required change and to oust Saddam Husayn and his regime is countered by another position that puts Jordan in the lead among those who will have the final say in defining the character and form of the regime which will succeed the current Iraqi regime. It also puts Jordan in the lead among those who will have the final say in appointing the replacement that will fill the likely leadership position and will occupy Baghdad's top leadership seat, which is occupied currently by the Iraqi president.

In addition to declaring the start of the war against the regime, the Hashemite king's position has also announced the start of the search for the alternative to the Iraqi president himself in the near-total absence of such an alternative on the political map both inside and outside Iraq and in light of the diminishing chances of (civilian) General Husayn Kamil and of his faded image in Washington and in other western capitals and Arab capitals, even though King Husayn has tried to restore some of these chances to him, presenting General Kamil to the world as courageous, convincing, and... his nephew.

It is evident that if the war to topple the Iraqi regime will be hard, then finding an alternative to Saddam Husayn will also be hard in light of the objective circumstances and international specifications that are supposed to be met by this alternative. These specifications cannot be found in any of the prominent or active political figures within the Iraqi opposition, whether represented by the Unified Iraqi National Congress, which is divided upon itself; or in the Constitutional Royal Grouping which demands a monarchy in Baghdad and projects its leader, al-Sharif 'Ali Ibn Husayn, as the heir to the Hashemite throne that was toppled by the 1958 revolution in the well-known bloody manner when the union between the two Hashemite kingdoms of Iraq and Jordan was still new.

Among the conditions agreed to by the parties to the broad camp formed of Arabs and non-Arabs and working currently to topple the Iraqi regime is that the regime

that succeeds this one must be democratic, pluralistic, and peaceable. It must also have no ambitions or aspirations beyond Iraq's borders, must respect covenants and accords, and must acknowledge the new political realities and old geographic conditions in the Gulf region primarily and in the entire Middle East ultimately. It must inspire confidence, must have the ability to restore Iraq's unity, must stabilize the country's domestic conditions, must be compatible with the general climate in the region, reflected in the Arab-Israeli peace process, and must be prepared to join this process like the other Arab countries.

The specifications required in the likely alternative to the current Iraqi president is that he must have the broadest popular base; must be acceptable to all Iraqi factions, must have the necessary esteem to sit at the top of the regime and to maintain its unity and the country's unity, and must not be involved in the crimes committed by Saddam Husayn and his regime against the Iraqi people and against Arab and non-Arab neighbors.

Eagerness for stable domestic Iraqi conditions in the post-Saddam era constitutes a red line. All those who wish to get rid of the ruling regime in Baghdad are keen not to cross this line, especially the Arab states adjacent to Iraq and those far from it. This keenness has been behind the fact that in the past five years these states have refrained from joining just any scheme or plan to topple the conditions existing in Baghdad. They have favored keeping the status quo—until what is foreordained by God comes to pass—to any leap into the unknown because the harm of such a leap will not be confined to Iraq alone but will extend to their own lands.

The Hashemite king and Jordan have led those who have refrained and who have said that firing the signal to start the war of change in Iraq must be preceded by preparation of the alternative. This alternative must, moreover, be agreed upon and he must be readied so he will be prepared to take control of the reins when the hour comes.

Has the time come?

Is the alternative ready?

It is not easy to answer these two questions decisively, even though logic leads one to conclude that King Husayn has such a long and successful political experience and he is so broadly informed with the facts and secrets and so capable of determining the direction of the wind that he is qualified to take the proper position at the right time and not to leap into the unknown. In light of the international, Arab, and Iraqi circumstances that have engulfed the king's latest position—which is clear

and decisive—toward Saddam Husayn and his regime, it is certain that he has two decisive answers to the two aforementioned questions.

So, does the Hashemite monarch also have a decisive answer to the question: Who is this alternative? It is likely that the answer is yes.

Whether this alternative is Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil himself, even though his chances seem to be very poor, or another Iraqi figure from inside or outside the country, what is certain is that the path to Baghdad definitely goes through Amman.

This is a legitimate and natural right. Moreover, it is a right accepted by the allies waging this second "desert storm" with King Husayn.

There is nobody more knowledgeable of the cure that heals the sick Layla in Iraq than the skillful Hashemite doctor in Jordan.

Editorial on Resurfacing of Confederation Question

JN0810205395 Amman AL-URDUN in Arabic

9 Oct 95 p 20

["With People" column by Chief Editor Dr. Musa Zayd al-Kilani: "Confederation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The idea of a confederation between the Jordanians and Palestinians has resurfaced once again. It is being discussed by politicians and laymen.

It pains me to say that we no longer recognize the trial balloons floated by others to draw reactions and sound out positions. The others want to obtain new figures to feed them into their own supercomputers so they may achieve their purposes and goals.

During the White House ceremony for the signing of the Oslo II accord a few days ago, the confederation idea resurfaced, but with U.S. cosmetics this time. It was proposed by Shim'on Peres. As for Yasir 'Arafat, he spoke of their twin relationship. Everybody sought to use this opportunity to fool others in order to force confederation as an inescapable eventuality.

U.S. Ambassador Wesley Egan did well on Wednesday, 4 October 1995, when he told newspaper chief editors and writers that the United States does not espouse the idea of a confederation as reported by some of our papers.

The U.S. ambassador added that the United States is neither for nor against confederation. Israel aims to insinuate that the United States supports confederation in order to prevent the Palestinians from exercising their

rights to sovereignty, independent statehood, and water resources.

The relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples can be likened to the relationship between Siamese twins. Each of the Siamese twins will be in good shape and happy as long as it remains connected to the other. Any effort to separate the two twins will result in the death of both.

These past 50 years have seen the same cohesion, intertwining, and integration. This state of affairs was also experienced during the Ottoman rule, and also over the past 5,000 years.

Confederation requires two fully sovereign independent states in terms of politics, economy, and legal entity.

When Peres proposes confederation right now, he only seeks to deny the Palestinians their right to full national sovereignty.

Worse yet, he is proposing that Israel be party to such a confederation.

Our people have been fed up with the trial balloons floated by research centers to gauge our reactions.

When the time is right, the Jordanian people will decide on the relationship they want with the Palestinian people, and so will the Palestinians, without interference from Israel or any other party.

Nasrallah's Meeting With al-Asad's Son Reported

NC1110065995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah visited Damascus last night at the head of a Hizballah leadership delegation. The delegation consisted of Husayn al-Khalil, political adviser to the secretary general; Ibrahim Amin al-Sayyid, head of the bloc loyal to the Resistance; and Husayn al-Musawi.

The delegation held a lengthy meeting with Dr. Bashshar al-Asad [President al-Asad's son]. The talks dealt with the latest developments and political changes in the region. They also dealt with the current situation in Lebanon. The conferees praised the remarkable role played by the Resistance in confronting the Israeli occupation forces and their Agents.

Soldier Said 'Severely Wounded' in Clash

TA1110095595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] soldier was severely wounded this morning in an encounter with a terrorist squad in the 'Ali al-Tahir mountain chain in the eastern sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon. His family has been notified. Our correspondent in the north Ilan Ro'e reports that an IDF force, engaged in initiated activity in the area of the village of Tibnit, ran into a terrorist squad. One

terrorist was killed in the exchanges of fire. The force carried out searches in the area, in the course of which fire was opened at the force and the soldier sustained head wounds. He was evacuated by helicopter to the Rambam hospital in Haifa. Many weapons possessed by the terrorists were found in the area, and it is believed in the IDF that they were intended for perpetrating a terrorist attack in the security zone.

Clashes in South, Casualties Reported

NC1110093895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to security reports from the south, an Israeli patrol tried to advance toward the eastern quarter of Kafr Tibnit early today. A clash ensued between the patrol and Resistance forces. This resulted in the death of a Resistance fighter and the wounding of an Israeli soldier, according to sources inside the border strip.

Elsewhere, the Israeli occupation forces shelled Mazra'at al-Hamra', the eastern quarter of Kafr Tibnit, and the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa this morning. The shelling caused damage to houses and property. [passage omitted]

Security sources say that Resistance men attacked the Israeli forces' position in Tallat 'Ali al-Tahir with rockets and machine guns this morning.

**Mubarak Arrives for Meetings With al-Asad
Leaders Discuss Peace Developments**

*JN1010172695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a meeting at the People's Palace after President Mubarak's arrival in Damascus this morning. The meeting was attended by Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman. Moreover, the meeting was attended by the official delegation accompanying President Mubarak, which includes Safwat al-Sharif, information minister; 'Amr Musa, foreign minister; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's office for political affairs; and Mahmud 'Ali Shukri, Egypt's ambassador in Damascus. The two presidents then held a closed meeting.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus at 1100 today. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received him at Damascus International Airport. He was also received by Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, deputy prime ministers, ministers, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, and the Embassy staff.

President al-Asad and his guest then travelled in an official motorcade from Damascus International Airport to the People's Palace.

Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Damascus today comes within the framework of continuous consultations between the two sisterly countries. In a statement he made in Damascus today, al-Sharif said the results of President Mubarak's visit to the United States and the evaluation of developments in the peace process were among the main issues which Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak discussed during their summit meeting today.

Al-Sharif said that he met with Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman and that Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. He said that the ministers discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations in all fields and to coordinate stands on foreign issues.

Closed Meeting, Working Lunch Held

*JN1010185395 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1720 GMT 10 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, 10 Oct (SANA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak ar-

rived in Damascus at 1100 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

President al-Asad led those who received him at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

After the arrival of the two presidents at the People's Palace, they held a meeting that was attended by Dr. Mashariqah, al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Information Minister Muhammad Salman, the official delegation accompanying President Mubarak, and Mahmud 'Ali Shukri, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

The two presidents then held a closed meeting. They discussed the latest developments in the Arab arena, the current situation in the peace process, and the obstacles Israel is placing on the Syrian track, which led to a stalemate in the talks on this track. Moreover, talks dealt with recent contacts with the United States, the sponsor of the peace process, as well as relations between the two sisterly countries.

The meeting between the two presidents was followed by a working luncheon, which was attended by the official delegation accompanying President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president; Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr. Muhammad Harbah, interior minister; Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; Dr. Muhammad Salman, information minister; and Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Damascus at 1630 today. President al-Asad led those who saw him off at Damascus International Airport. He was also seen off by Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, deputy prime ministers, ministers, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, and the Embassy staff.

News Conference Reported

*JN1010203595 Damascus Syrian Arab Television
Network in Arabic 1835 GMT 10 Oct 95*

[News conference by President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak with unidentified correspondents at the VIP lounge at Damascus International Airport on 10 October — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Your Excellency Mr. President, to what extent can we consider time and the U.S. and Israeli elections a factor in the calculations of the Syrian stand vis-a-vis the political settlement?

[Al-Asad] In fact, the stand, which we are adopting now, does not change whether or not there are elections. The issue is clear; it is an issue of peace, occupied territory, and what stems from them. When there is an appropriate opportunity to accomplish what is required by the peace process, we move. But when circumstances are contrary to this, our stand is as you see it now.

[Correspondent] Does time constitute a pressing factor on the Syrian stand?

[Al-Asad] As for us, no. Absolutely not. This is not....

[Correspondent, interrupting] When the other party uses the Israeli elections as an excuse and says that the opportunity is inappropriate, what will be the Syrian response?

[Al-Asad] We will continue on the road. We wish success for those who seek success and we wish the opposite for those who seek the opposite. There is no justification for linking our stand to the U.S. elections. When the peace process started, the question of elections was not on the table. We have no reason to be worried or to be reassured by the elections, either way.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Husni Mubarak, have you made a new assessment of the situation in Iraq after the Cairo summit between you and President Hafiz al-Asad?

[Mubarak] At every meeting with my brother President Hafiz, we assess the various stands on the situation in Iraq, the peace issue, the Arab situation in general, and Arab solidarity in general. We assess all these issues and speak about our excellent bilateral relations.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President al-Asad, my question is about the talks held with President Husni Mubarak today, his visit to Washington, and the contacts held by Dr. al-Shar' [as heard] in Washington also. Is there anything new in the U.S. stand regarding the peace process?

[Al-Asad] As you know, the United States is a cosponsor of the peace process. It acts as a mediator between the parties and does as much as circumstances permit. But what I say here is what I have said before: We cannot speak of a significant progress.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that your excellency is satisfied with the U.S. move regarding the peace process and its approach toward Israel to accept the Syrian viewpoint or right?

[Al-Asad] We are satisfied with their efforts, which, as we know, are confined to a specific framework.

[Correspondent] Do you expect an imminent visit to Damascus by the U.S. secretary of state? There were

reports that the U.S. secretary of state would visit Damascus following the Amman economic summit? Is such a visit still possible?

[Al-Asad] There is talk about this, but no agreement has been reached on such a visit and its date. But during meetings and contacts, there is always talk of a possible visit to the region (?by Christopher).

[Correspondent] Why are the Israelis talking about changes in the Syrian stand? Were there really any changes in the Syrian stand?

[Al-Asad] In fact, they are the ones who changed their stand. As you recall, the Americans proposed to the Syrian side an agenda, broad headlines, such as meetings between chiefs of staff and experts, as well as other steps. We said: Yes. However, we should say that the preparations for the meetings of the chiefs of staff aimed at creating appropriate conditions to achieve progress in the various issues related to the peace process. If an agreement was reached between the chiefs of staff the experts would then come to discuss the agreement, because the chiefs of staff would not be able to stay a long time there or in any place outside their countries. The chiefs of staff decide the basic matters in any subject then the experts come to discuss things in detail and to prepare things.

The chiefs of staff did not realize any success. Therefore what will the experts do? What will they do? We said there was no task for the experts to perform.

They are of the opinion that since we did not implement the point on experts, we contravened the agreement that had been reached. Naturally, our simple and clear answer is: Is it reasonable for two nations in a state of war—in fact any two people who are discussing a meaningful question, let alone a question of war and peace ... [sentence incomplete] No two sides who have this interest or who are tasked with these missions can fix dates only to hold a meeting, or to develop a timetable for steps just for the sake of developing them and only to meet in accordance with this timetable. The problem is not that of form. We cannot prepare a timetable without any contents. As a matter of fact, no one can say this timetable is perhaps without content. If one side is aware of this lack of content then this side is very malicious.

We then concluded that they wanted to gain time. They wanted to exploit these meetings for other aims. Of course, we have our evaluation and we evaluated these aims. In any case, these are their own affairs. However, we are concerned with the problem that is of interest to us — and of course it is of interest to others, but we want it to be within the interest and rights of both sides.

[Correspondent] President Husni Mubarak, do you believe that by rushing toward Israel, some Arab brothers are serving the peace progress at present or is the contrary true?

[Mubarak] I believe that the so-called rushing is not as real as some might think. However, these are contacts. We hope that the peace process will progress so that clear contacts will take place. Without progress in the peace process, contacts will not have an effect on the Arab stand.

[Correspondent] President Mubarak, It has been noticed that you have reduced the pressure campaign to remove Israel's nuclear weapons while the Israeli nuclear threat continues. Will you continue your campaign to bring about Israeli nuclear disarmament?

[Mubarak] Nobody can continue a campaign forever [al-Asad, al-Shar', others chuckle]. Each campaign has its timing. We are not launching campaigns, we want to reach a genuine peace in the region. If you have nuclear weapons, you will be encouraging other states to have the same. We have discussed this before. The campaign began when the time came to renew the Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Now we are dealing with the peace process. We are discussing the progress in this process, the Palestinian solution, the need to reactivate the Syrian track. Then at one point, when peace has become a reality, what will be the benefit of nuclear weapons? Otherwise many states that signed the NPT, will also obtain nuclear weapons. We have Iraq as an example. Had anyone known about Iraq?

The best guarantee for this is to make everything clear. If you do not have nuclear weapons and I have them, then I must reduce the nuclear weapons. This is supposed to be the right path; namely, reaching just and comprehensive peace in the region.

[Correspondent] President Husni Mubarak, in light of the steps taken in the peace process, what are you expecting to happen over the next few months before the Israeli elections which are being taken as a pretext to hinder the peace march?

[Mubarak] I hope that what is agreed upon is implemented. In my speech in the United States and within the earshot of the entire world, I said: I hope that we will implement what we have agreed upon, what was signed today. This is because failure to implement it or postponing its implementation will evaporate the credibility of the peace process. I think Israel is aware of this; the Americans are aware of it. We say this, we are eager to promote the peace process and to solve the problem of the Palestinian people—we, President Hafiz, and all the (?Arabs.) We are eager to push the Syrian track to-

ward its final destination — the restoration of territory and the restoration of full sovereignty over this territory. This is the only solution.

Al-Asad Comments on Peace Process, 'Pressure'

NC1110070595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0605 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has asserted that his country has supported a comprehensive and just peace from the beginning. This peace, he added, must prevail throughout the region and be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He referred to the speech he delivered during the initial hours of the October 1973 war in which he said: "We are advocates of peace. We are working to achieve peace for us and for others. We are not aggressors; on the contrary we are defending ourselves against aggression and we do not seek war."

In an interview published in the newspaper AL-AHRAM today, al-Asad said Syria does not consider the pressure to which others in the peace process have been subjected. Syria, he added, will support peace, whether with all the Arabs, half the Arabs, a fourth the Arabs, or any number of them. He expressed his belief that all the "good" Arab peoples and leaders will remain united.

He emphasized that Damascus supports peace but does not support efforts to scoff at it. He said it is out of the question—no matter how things change or what the outcome may be—that Damascus would do anything it does not believe in or anything contradicting its pan-Arab interest or what it views as just. If what we desire is provided, then there will be peace, otherwise our situation will not change.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM, the Syrian president attributed the suspension of talks between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of Staff to Israel's condition to establish an early warning station on the Golan Heights. He said that if they are thinking of this, then the situation is not negotiable, even if the peace process collapses. Because, he added, Syria does not want to get rid of one occupation so that another occupation will come about. He added that Syria does not want any symbol of occupation to remain on its soil and noted that alternatives could be found to supervision, but there should not be supervision on the ground.

Al-Asad clarified that supervision could be from the air, noting that the Syrian chief of Staff asserted during his meeting with his Israeli counterpart that an aerial warning is more effective than a ground warning. He emphasized that the Arabs need security arrangements just as Israel does.

Al-Asad said that not one step was taken during the past four years. Israel, he said, uses meetings on the level of experts who have no authority to make any decision to give the impression that the peace process is continuing—just to mislead Arab citizens.

Asked whether the Israelis are prepared to offer major concessions in the name of peace, especially in view of Labor Party hopes for the approaching election, President al-Asad said: It is difficult to proceed based on this notion. The peace process has been going on for four years. When we ignore these four years and recall only the current era it would be in others' interests, not ours. This is continuous behavior on their part; they are not behaving like this because they are heading toward elections. President al-Asad added: Hence the Syrians do not pin big hopes on the Israeli elections.

Asked about U.S. President Bill Clinton's role in the peace process, al-Asad said: I can say with impartiality and out of conviction that during my meetings with him and on other occasions Clinton has indeed proven that he is a man who wants a just peace. But the road is not as well paved as some decisionmakers in the United States would want it to be for this peace process.

As for his talks with President Hosni Mubarak, President al-Asad said: We have continuous consultations that have always yielded important results serving the interests of Egypt and Syria. He added that they always reach an agreement whenever they discuss any issue.

In his interview the Syrian president criticized the Amman economic summit to be held at the end of October. He said Syria will not attend this summit because it believes such summits have no advantage. This summit is purely an attempt to achieve normalization before peace. It is also an attempt to absorb and dissolve the Arab nation in the Middle East project, which is being presented as an alternative for Arabism and tries to cancel something called the Arabs. President al-Asad said the Middle East project is not an economic topic. It is, rather, an economic-political issue. Economically, the project tries to open the road wide to all the enemies.

Asked if there is alienation in Syrian-Jordanian ties, al-Asad said: We feel that some Arab brothers are not correct and that they are gambling with and opposing what they see, or perhaps with what we see, as their basic interest. The vision with which they measure their steps is narrow.

Asked whether relations between Damascus and Amman might return to normal soon, the Syrian president said: We have no animosity or state of war between us. He said the Syrian ministers continue to meet with their Jordanian counterparts at the Arab League and the

United Nations. But we have no problem with the Jordanian people. As for trade exchange between Syria and Jordan, al-Asad said: We have adopted no measures to obstruct this exchange.

Touching on Syrian-Iraqi relations, Syrian President al-Asad said Syria supports Iraq's territorial integrity. He added that the situation in Iraq is regrettable in view of the economic problems. He expressed the hope that Baghdad will implement the UN resolutions for the sake of achieving better conditions for the Iraqi people.

Asked about the Damascus Declaration, al-Asad said it could be implemented if the participants want.

Asked about the Arab Code of Honor, the Syrian president said this was not submitted at the appropriate time. He stressed that the Arabs need to treat their old wounds and not open new ones.

Alluding to the Lebanese presidential elections, al-Asad said that all the Lebanese support the reelection of President Elias al-Hirawi, adding that after 16 years of civil war in Lebanon, the reelection of President al-Hirawi is required under the current circumstances. Al-Asad added: Anyone who views the situation in Lebanon without considering the effects of the war is wrong. He expressed the conviction that the difference in opinions among the Lebanese leaders concerning the presidential elections is not wide and is not big enough to cause any deep problems.

Minister: Damascus Not 'Frightened' by War Threats

*NC1010193795 London MBC Television in Arabic
1800 GMT 10 Oct 94*

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas; place not given; by Nidal Qabalan in London; date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Qabalan] Why is the peace train faltering on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Talas] The peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track has faltered because of Israel's intransigence and its insistence on maintaining hegemony over the Arab region. As you know, Syria has firm pan-Arab constants and does not accept under any form any tampering with its sovereignty over all its territories.

[Qabalan] What are the requirements for breaking this obvious stalemate on the Syrian-Israeli track of the peace process?

[Talas] The basic requirement for movement on this track is for the United States, the sponsor of the peace process, to do its duty so that this process can continue

with full momentum and strength. As a matter of fact, the United States has a duty [words indistinct]

[Qabalan] There were warnings recently that a new war could break out between Syria and Israel. What do you have to say to these warnings?

[Talas] We in Syria are no longer frightened by such remarks. We in Syria are carrying out our responsibilities and national obligations and are defending our land and the land of our fathers and forefathers. The Zionists are the aggressors. The Zionists are the newcomers in the Arab nation. We have a right to defend our sacred places and our territories. These warnings absolutely will not scare us. We standing fast on the capabilities of our Armed Forces and with the unlimited backing of our people behind the historic leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

[Qabalan] Do you believe that the peace to which Syria aspires is realistic or an illusory hope in the age of separate agreements?

[Talas] We live with a real, not an illusory, hope. This is because the Arab nation has legitimate rights. The Arab nation cannot for long remain divided [words indistinct] and the connivers within the Arab nation cannot continue to move around without punishment by the masses of our people. The Arab nation must regain its solidarity, just as the Arab masses are now in solidarity with Syria. If you ask any citizen in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, or elsewhere you will get one answer, namely: We are with Syria. That is because Syria is holding tight to firm national and pan-Arab stands.

Afghanistan

Taleban, Russian Delegation Discuss Prisoners

BK1010090695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Leaders of the [Afghan] Taleban Movement held talks with the Russian Federation delegation in Qandahar and discussed the fate of those seven Russians, who have been arrested for the last two months. Taleban say they would release these persons if the Russian Federation showed their reaction about those 60,000 Afghan, who, according to Taleban leaders, are missing during invasion of Afghanistan by the former Soviet forces. The arrested Russians are crew members of a plane, which Taleban forced to land in August. The plane was loaded with weapons, which were being carrying to the Afghan Government in Kabul. [sentence as heard]

Taleban Reportedly Takes Strategic Town Near Kabul

BK1110080895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0800 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sia Bini, Afghanistan, Oct 11 (AFP) — Afghanistan's Islamic militia, the Taleban, has captured a key strategic town 25 kilometers (16 miles) south of Kabul in a lightning overnight assault, sources at the front line said Wednesday [11 October].

The militia smashed through two heavily-fortified lines of government troops to seize Charasyab in a 15-km (nine-mile) advance, they said.

"We were ordered to retreat," one government soldier said at Sia Bini, which is located around 18 kms (11 miles) south of the capital.

Others accused some of their commanders of "treachery," alleging they had allowed the Taleban to breach the defences.

The Taleban had threatened last Friday to launch an assault on Kabul "very soon," and truck drivers and other witnesses had spoken of a massive buildup by the militia near its forward base of Maydan Shahr.

Reports from Kabul had said forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani have been reinforcing their troops to strengthen the defense of Kabul.

The attack coincides with the renewed efforts of United Nations peace mediator Mahmoud Mestiri, who has been trying to arrange a ceasefire between Rabbani and rival factions.

Minister Describes Taleban as 'Enemies of Islam'

LD1010221395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In his interview, Mohammad Sediq Chakari, acting minister of border affairs, said that the Taleban group were enemies of Islam and of the territorial integrity of Afghanistan. In his opinion, Taleban is a mercenary group who has no will or authority of their own. They are being controlled by outsiders, and led by the Khalqi and Parchami communists whose hands are soiled with the blood of the Afghan people.

Esteemed Chakari said that he had many times spoken with them and found them a group without any experience [words indistinct] because during the talks, they always cut the conversation and suspend the talks for reasons of consultation with their [?hidden] friends. They change their position when come back for talks the next day.

In Chakari's opinion, Taleban's constant war-mongering attitude stems from their irrationality and irresponsibility [words indistinct].

Regarding relations with Pakistan, the acting minister of border affairs said that Pakistan's Government, contrary to all principles and norms, is openly interfering in the affairs of Afghanistan and this has caused deterioration of relations between the two countries. [Passage indistinct]

In his interview, esteemed Mohammad Sediq Chakari called on Pakistan's people to stop the politicians in charge of Pakistan and do not allow them to ruin relations further between the two Muslim and fraternal countries.

Proposed Council Said To Decide Future Leadership

BK1110075195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Afghanistan, the joint ruling body supporting President Borhanoddin Rabbani has proposed the setting up of a people's council to decide the thorny issue of future Afghan leadership. A presidential spokesman said in Kabul yesterday that the proposed council is to decide whether President Rabbani should stay on or be replaced and by whom. The spokesman said the proposed council can be called shura [consultative council] or a jergah [grand assembly] and that it should be convened inside Afghanistan. He said President Rabbani was ready to step down if this was decided by the proposed council.

Bangladesh

Minister Reports on 'Objectives' of Visit to Iran

LD0510222495 *Tehran IRNA in English*
2043 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Oct 5 (IRNA) — On his return home from Iran, Bangladesh's Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr. Khondaker Mosharraf Hussain, told the press here Thursday [5 October] that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to his country next week, would open a new horizon in bilateral relations in the economic, trade and cultural areas.

Mosharraf Hussain said the Bangladeshis are eagerly waiting to welcome the Iranian president in his first-ever visit to their country.

He briefed on the objectives of his visit to Iran saying that he had met Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, and the Minister of Jihad Gholam Reza Foruzesh, and reached an agreement on purchase of 70,000 tons of tar as his country's needs.

The energy minister said his country production of 70,000 tons of tar per annum is well below the domestic needs of 240,000 tons, hence the decision to import Iranian tar.

Mosharraf Hussain indicated that Iran has also agreed to supply his country with liquified gas and accepted in principle to help build a gas liquifying plant and provide financial aid for construction of an oil refinery in Bangladesh.

He also disclosed that Iran has shown interest in oil and gas exploration in Bangladesh and has agreed to refurbish the country's only refinery in Chittagong in order to boost its production capacity.

According to the minister, a team of Iranian experts will soon be coming to Bangladesh to assess and evaluate the refinery project.

Mosharraf Hussain concluded that Bangladesh currently imports dlr. 45 million worth of Iranian exports and supplies Iran with such items as jute and tea worth 40 million dollars. Imports of Iranian crude was worth dlr. 5 million, he said.

Iranian President Pays Official 4-Day Visit

Arrives, Welcomed at Airport

LD1010125695 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1225 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Oct 10 (IRNA) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived here Tuesday [10 October] morning on a four-day

official visit and was greeted at the airport by Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Ziaur and cabinet ministers.

The Iranian president who was given a red carpet welcome is visiting Bangladesh on the last leg of his three-nation Asian tour which previously took him to Vietnam and the Philippines.

Tens of thousands of enthusiastic people from all over Bangladesh have travelled to Dhaka to extend a warm welcome to the Iranian president and his entourage. The crowd had lined up on the road from the airport to the presidential palace.

The enthusiastic crowd were chanting 'long live Iran,' and other slogans welcoming closer friendship between Iran and Bangladesh. The streets of the capital city are decorated with flowers, national flags of the two countries and posters of President Rafsanjani.

The president accompanied by his wife and a number of ministers including the ministers of foreign affairs, construction jihad, and commerce, is to hold talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart Abdur Rahman Biswas and the prime minister.

All political and social circles called as historic the visit of President Rafsanjani to Dhaka which is the first ever by an Iranian president to Bangladesh.

The Bangladeshi mass media have attached great importance to the visit and have given extensive coverage to the visit of President Rafsanjani.

Holds 'Courtesy Meeting' With Biswas

BK1010132495 *Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English* 1230 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, has arrived in Dhaka on a four-day state visit to Bangladesh. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia greeted the Iranian president at Zia International Airport today. President Rafsanjani, first-ever Iranian head of state to visit Bangladesh, is accompanied by Madam Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Rural Development and Reconstruction Gholam Reza Foruzesh, Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq, senior officials, a delegation of leading businessmen, and the media team.

From the airport, the Iranian president drove to Bangabhaban [President House] where he was ceremonially received by President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Begum Biswas. The two presidents also held a courtesy meeting. President Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will hold formal talks on Wednesday [11 October].

During the meeting, the two leaders are expected to discuss the entire range of bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common interest. The Iranian president and the Bangladeshi prime minister are expected to discuss among other things the Balkans situation, establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, and the Afghan situation and will exchange views on the situation in the region and problems facing the Islamic ummah [community].

Discusses Common 'Islamic Faith'

BK1010164095 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Abdur Rahman Biswas has said that the current visit of 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will further strengthen the existing close and friendly relations between the two brotherly countries. President Biswas was exchanging views with President Rafsanjani when the latter called upon him at the President House this afternoon. President Biswas said that Bangladesh is tied to Iran by the common bond of the Islamic faith and values and cultural heritage and it highly values its relations with Iran. He said that the two brotherly countries held identical views at various international forums on matters of mutual interests. Reciprocating, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction at being able to visit Bangladesh. He said that the visit will further deepen the sincere ties between the two countries. He said that the formal talks and consultations will lead to greater cooperation and understanding between the two countries for the mutual welfare of the people of their two countries.

This evening Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Karatoya State Guest House. During the meeting, the Iranian president inquired about the recent floods in Bangladesh. In response, Begum Zia discussed in detail the causes of the floods. She said that the rush of water from the upper riparian region across the neighboring country has caused this disaster. She said that 14 northern districts have suffered extensive losses due to the floods, which have caused considerable damage to crops and houses. The prime minister said that since Iran is on good terms with India, it could persuade New Delhi to agree to resolve the issue of sharing the water from the Ganges River for the greater interest of the lower riparian country of Bangladesh. President Rafsanjani said that Iran is ready to use its good offices in this regard.

Gholam Reza Foruzesh, visiting Iranian minister for rural development and jihad reconstruction, met Communications Minister Oli Ahmad in Dhaka today. They held talks on matters of bilateral and mutual interests.

The Iranian minister said that there is considerable scope to further strengthen the existing (?distinctive) relations between the two countries in agriculture, environment, culture, water transport, civil aviation, and industry. Iran is also interested in establishing a cement plant, [word indistinct] and oil refineries in Bangladesh in joint venture projects. The Iranian minister also met Lutfur Rahman Khan, minister of state for industry.

Comments on Aiding 'World Peace'

LD1010213995 Tehran IRNA in English 2059 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Bangladesh, Oct. 10, IRNA — The president of Bangladesh, Abdur Rahman Biswas, gave a banquet here Tuesday [10 October] night in honor of visiting President of Iran Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At the banquet, Iran's President Rafsanjani said that the current international situation warranted closer cooperation between Muslim governments and that Tehran and Dhaka could contribute to world peace and security as both of them were members of both the Organization of [the] Islamic Conferences (OIC) and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Rafsanjani said both Tehran and Dhaka had unique human and natural resources on which they could rely for promoting their relations. He also expressed hope that Iran-Bangladesh joint commission would be able to offer a suitable framework for the future cooperation of the two countries.

The president of Bangladesh Abdur Rahman Biswas said in response that Iran and Bangladesh shared a lot in their culture and religion, and expressed hope that historical relations could be explored to promote mutual interests.

He said Dhaka looked forward to having closer relations with Tehran.

Comments on Joint Economic Commission

BK1110030995 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0100 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh and Iran have called for expanding all round bilateral cooperation and consolidating historic ties between the two brotherly countries. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Madame Rafsanjani at the President House in Dhaka last night [words indistinct] said there are wide prospects for expansion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Iran. He proposed that the two countries establish various projects on a

joint venture basis for the benefit of their people. President Biswas said as members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, both Bangladesh and Iran have been cooperating with each other in the interest of the Islamic community. The president of Bangladesh said this visit of the Iranian leader will provide impetus for further cooperation.

President Rafsanjani said Iran has always emphasized increasing cooperation with Islamic and nonaligned nations. He expressed the hope that the Joint Economic Commission between the two countries will play an effective role [words indistinct].

The banquet was also attended by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, members of the cabinet, judges of the Supreme Court, the foreign minister of Iran, and senior military and civilian officials.

Commentary Views 'Momentous' Visit

BK1110084195 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network
in English 1600 GMT 10 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh today rolled out red carpets to welcome Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his four-day state visit to Bangladesh. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia received the distinguished guest at Zia International Airport, while President Abdur Rahman Biswas formally greeted him at Bangabhaban [President House]. The visit, the first ever by any head of state from Iran after Bangladesh's independence, has been viewed as momentous by Dhaka. President Rafsanjani's visit has ushered in a new era for Bangladesh-Iranian bilateral relations and it marks a watershed in Dhaka-Tehran ties.

According to official sources, a number of memoranda of understanding to be signed during the Iranian president's stay in Bangladesh capital will give concrete shape to bilateral cooperation. The memoranda's stipulates increased cooperation in investments, energy, manpower, preservation of environment, agriculture, shipping, control of drug trafficking, telecommunications, and avoidance of double taxation in trade.

It was indeed Shaheed [martyred] President Ziaur Rahman first who had given a new sense of direction to Bangladesh's relation with Iran. When the late president had brokered Iran-Iraq peace, he took Bangladesh to the hearts of the Iranians as an upholder of peace for the two warring Muslim countries. From then on bilateral ties have grown from strength to strength. Today trade relation, a yardstick of amity, has grown in volume between Bangladesh and Iran. Official sources said Bangladesh exported goods worth \$23.50 million

in 1991. In the next 1991-92 fiscal year, such exports increased to \$52.09 million, while imports stood at \$4.36 million. In 1992-93 fiscal year, exports from Bangladesh to Iran were estimated at \$28.77 million and imports at \$8.77 million. In 93-94, the exports stood at \$34 million while the import at \$4.60 million.

Crucial will be Iranian assistance in the form of its expertise in drilling oil and gas fields. And at the same time, they (?announced) much-needed aid for setting up second oil refinery in Bangladesh. The framework of Dhaka-Tehran cooperation has already been prepared by Bangladesh during the country's Energy Minister, Dr. Khondaker Mosharraf Hussain's, visit. During his recent visit to Iran, the two sides agreed to cooperate in fields of energy sector. During his talks with the Iranian oil minister in Tehran, Iran agreed to supply 70,000 metric tons of bitumen annually to Bangladesh (?under) government-to-government basis of deal. Tehran also agreed to supply Liquefied Petroleum Gas, LPG, and help Bangladesh set up an LPG plant, and help the country set up an oil refinery.

According to the energy minister, Iran also agreed to the help Bangladesh through possible revamping of its lone oil refinery at southeastern Chittagong, the Eastern Refinery. In this connection, Iran also agreed to send a study team at its own cost to examine the feasibility of revamping the Eastern Refinery for increasing its efficiency and productivity. Iran has decided to provide assistance to Bangladesh in setting up a second oil refinery in the country and Dr. Khondaker Mosharraf Hussain said the financial assistance could be repaid as the refinery earns. The repayment in part, said the minister, could take place from the Bangladeshi goods to be exported to Iran. Meanwhile, here the demands of petroleum products from the oil refinery in Bangladesh increased by last June 30 percent compared to the demands in the previous fiscal year.

The Iranian decision to allow Bangladesh transit right for exporting its goods to the Central Asian republics reflects the depth of Dhaka-Tehran amity. The opening up of the Bandar Abbas port for Bangladesh will surely act as a big boost for the South Asian country's exports to the former Soviet republics.

Report on Minister's Statement at UN Assembly

BK0410120495 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English
28 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman Tuesday [26 September] expressed the increasing anxiety of the South that their interests were being marginalised and their potential to act as partners in revitalizing the world economy was being

ignored and new constraints and conditionalities were being selectively imposed, reports BSS.

The Foreign Minister's statement, read out at the 50th session of the UN General Assembly in New York by Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN, ambassador Reaz Rahman, said that development resources were being diverted or were dwindling.

The Foreign Minister though in New York could not himself read the statement as he had recently undergone a surgical operation.

In the statement, he said that the optimism created with the end of the Cold War for a better world had been belied by the realities of greater tension in more places, more degradation in the quality of life, and more complex issues of law and ethics, management and practical cooperation.

He said that in spite of much criticism and allegations of failures by the United Nations, Bangladesh considers that the UN 'remains the only forum' where the nations of the world could meet the challenges of the future "by drawing upon our combined solidarity and willingness to confront them together".

Lending Bangladesh's support to the ongoing efforts to reform the UN, to restructure and revitalize it, the Foreign Minister said Bangladesh intended to actively participate in the open ended, high level working group on UN reform.

On Security Council reform, he said, Bangladesh was opposed in principle to creating new centres of privilege or distinctions that can distort the principle of sovereign equality.

"Our position with regard to Security Council reform," he said, "has concentrated more on strengthening transparency and efficiency of the Council's mandate than on enlargement of the permanent membership."

He, however, said, "while we fully support enlargement of the overall size of the Council to reflect the growth in membership of the UN, we believe that the increase of permanent members should be considered only on the basis of the most stringent criteria and on global recognition and consensus."

He observed that the prospect for a negotiated solution on the on-going conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina had considerably brightened on the basis of the contact group's peace plan and the Geneva Declaration of principles of September 8.

He, however, expressed the hope to comment at length during consideration of the specific crisis like Bosnia, the continuing peace efforts in the Middle East, the new interim agreement between Palestine and Israel

as a follow-up of the Oslo Agreement, the status of democracy and human rights in Haiti and the review of the work of international tribunals established in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

The continuing crisis facing the LDC [least developed countries] Countries, he said, "calls for immediate remedial action especially in increasing development assistance, writing off debts and assuring greater trade access on preferential terms."

Bangladesh, he said, welcomes the consensus achieved at the major UN sponsored conferences in Cairo on population, Copenhagen on social development and Beijing on women which supplemented the results of the Earth Summit in Rio, the summit on children, and the Vienna conference on human rights.

He called for placing the financial situation of the UN on an "adequate and sustainable footing" and for urgently reversing its deterioration.

Since the current financial difficulties were caused by failure of some major contributors he said these member countries must fulfill their charter obligations in full and on time. Bangladesh, he said, supports exploring the possibility by the UN to create independent revenue sources through various international transactions and taxes.

Antigovernment Strike Held; Explosions Reported

*BK0710100695 Hong Kong AFP in English
0912 GMT 7 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Oct 7 (AFP) — An anti-government strike began here Saturday [7 October], as a top Bangladeshi opposition leader said she was ready to correspond with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to find ways of solving a long-running political stand-off.

Several home-made bombs exploded in the city, as some 6,000 security personnel patrolled Dhaka and followed opposition marches in trucks, witnesses said.

The 32-hour strike — which started at 6:00 a.m. (0000 GMT) in five major Bangladeshi cities — is part of an 18-month campaign to force Zia to resign and hold elections under a neutral caretaker government.

The stoppage all but paralysed the capital, shutting shops, schools, banks and businesses. No vehicles could be seen on the streets, except for a few pedicabs.

Some workers managed to get to work despite the lack of transport. Some government and private-sector employees stayed overnight at their offices or in nearby hotels, while others walked to work. Saturday and

Sunday are working days in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh.

The stoppage was also enforced in southeastern Chittagong, where the country's main port was shut, officials said.

But as the strike got underway, the country's main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed, head of the Awami League, said she would discuss ways of settling opposition differences with the government if the premier wrote to her.

"I will reply, if the Prime Minister writes to me with a proposal to resolve the existing political crisis," she told the Independent newspaper.

"I would not object to her (Zia) continuing in power," if the premier formally accepted the demand for a caretaker government to oversee national polls, she added.

Zia is now touring north Bangladesh's flood-hit areas, and government leaders were not immediately available for comment. She reportedly told local newspaper editors earlier this week that she wanted to write to write to her arch-rival, but was unsure if Wajed would reply.

Wajed, who returned to Dhaka after touring the flooded north, threatened to stage a sit-in at the premier's residence in Cantonment military barracks if Zia did not accept opposition demands after a 96-hour nationwide general strike scheduled to start October 16.

The premier has so far rejected as unconstitutional opposition demands that she step down immediately and establish a caretaker government. But she has offered to resign 30 days ahead of new elections scheduled for early 1996.

The opposition has said that free and fair polls under Zia's government — which opposition politicians claim is corrupt and illegitimate — are impossible and have persistently demanded that she resign immediately.

Wajed's comments came as the government and the opposition are reportedly both coming under pressure from the business and donor communities to resolve the stand-off, amid fears that violence could escalate in the coming days.

A series of opposition-led strikes has paralysed Bangladesh intermittently for months, dealing a blow to business and trade.

The Awami League, jailed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad's Jatiya Party and the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami party resigned from the 330-member

National Parliament in December in protest against Zia's administration.

Their seats were declared vacant in July after the MPs failed to turn up for months on end.

Strike was also enforced in the northeastern city of Sylhet, and in the southern cities of Khulna and Barisal, but there were no incidents reported, the United News of Bangladesh news agency reported.

It said road-links between capital Dhaka and other districts were broken and air services were disrupted. Ferry and train services were unaffected.

India

Business Leader Comments on Visit to Middle East

BK0710120095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The recent visit of a delegation from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan has helped in finalizing a number of business agreements and joint ventures, boosting India's trade prospects with these countries. This was disclosed by the leader of the delegation, Mr. Vinay Kumar, in New Delhi today. The delegation — which included representatives from the Ministries of Commerce, Industry, and Finance — had extensive discussions in these countries to remove irritants and problems like visa. Mr. Vinay Kumar said because of larger imports by Gulf countries and their increasing preference for Indian goods, the prospects for joint ventures — particularly in areas like drugs and pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, engineering goods, and electrical components — have brightened. He said a core group has been set up on either sides to coordinate follow-up action and help generate new ideas for giving a thrust to bilateral trade and investment.

Joint Commission Meeting With Russia Begins

BK1010033195 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The entire gamut of relations between New Delhi and Moscow is being reviewed at the Indo-Russian Joint Commission meeting which began in New Delhi today. The Russian deputy prime minister, Mr. Yuriy F. Yarov, is leading his country's high-powered delegation, while the Indian side is headed by the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee.

The two leaders discussed bilateral relations followed by the joint commission meeting. The joint commission is considering a number of tie-ups, including identification of oil fields in Russia for development by the ONGC

[Oil and Natural Gas Commission]. It is also looking into the participation of Indian firms in the modernization of the Novorossiisk Port. The Russian side on its part expressed keenness in participating in modernization of power projects in India, including the Tehri hydropower project. The commission would also consider strengthening of ties in the fields of the economy, fuel, energy, transport, and other areas. Reforms in the UN setup, cooperation in fighting terrorism, and other regional and international political issues will also come up for discussion. The Russian delegation includes several ministers.

CPI Condemns U.S. Attempt To Arm Pakistan

BK1010161195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 16th Congress of the Communist Party of India — CPI — has condemned the U.S. attempt to arm Pakistan and said it will lead to an arms race in the Indian subcontinent. A resolution adopted today further said that arming of Pakistan by the U.S. Administration is of serious concern to the Indian people and it should be declared a hostile act. In another resolution, the CPI expressed concern at the growing nexus between politicians and criminals. It appealed to political parties to uphold ethics in political life. During the deliberations of the Congress, several members emphasized that the principle of collective decisions and individual responsibility for their implementation should be strictly adhered to.

CPI 'Solidarity' Expressed for Cuba's Castro

BK0910140495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The CPI [Communist Party of India] has criticized the government for the Bailadila mine deal issue and also for the disinvestment of public sector undertakings shares. In a resolution passed in New Delhi today, the 16th congress of the party demanded cancellation of the Bailadila deal.

In another resolution, it expressed solidarity with President Castro of Cuba, who has resisted the U.S. blockade for the 3 decades.

President Addresses National Security 'Challenges'

BK0610130595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India today rejected all discriminatory and artificial arrangements for regional balance. Speaking at the Eastern Naval Command Headquarters in Vishakhapatnam, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said such arrangements either in political,

economic, or military spheres seek to deny the nation its rightful position. Countries, which deserve condemnation for waging a proxy war against India, are instead being rewarded with fresh supplies of weapons and military technology. Pointing out that the move poses new challenges for national security, particularly for the Navy, the president said no effort should be spared in responding to the challenge. He said the armed forces should constantly upgrade their capabilities and continue the quest for self-reliance.

Military Assured Funds After U.S. Arms to Pakistan

BK1010131395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The armed forces will be provided with the funds they require to meet the situation resulting from the U.S. resumption of arms supply to Pakistan. This assurance was given by the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, in New Delhi today. Addressing the naval commanders conference, he said that historical experience indicated that arms acquired by Pakistan have invariably been used against India. The minister informed the meeting that the government has accorded sanction for acquisition of the cadets training ship, Krishna, and the establishment of a third naval base at Karwar.

Iran

Nuclear Ties With China, U.S. Reaction Discussed

LD0410144495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 4 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Qian Qichen has made a speech at the London Royal Institute of International Relations on Tuesday [3 October], once again denying the U.S. officials' statements concerning [the] cancellation of the contract for the sale of nuclear reactors to Iran by China. He reiterated that [the] Tehran-Beijing agreement remains strong. The Chinese foreign minister also added that Beijing supports [the] Nonproliferation Treaty and will never enter deals which pertain to the duplication and development of nuclear weapons. Therefore, the reactors which China will set up in Iran will have no application in the development or duplication of nuclear weapons and just pursue peaceful objectives.

The remarks by the Chinese foreign minister came at a time when U.S. officials claim that the Chinese foreign minister has assured his American counterpart Warren Christopher that China will not enter a nuclear deal with

Iran. On Thursday and Friday [29-30 September], the White House officials had claimed that in his meeting with Warren Christopher, the Chinese foreign minister had made it clear that the nuclear agreement between Iran and China was no more valid; and on Monday, the American foreign minister told reporters that the Chinese Foreign Minister had used the word suspend and not cancel in his remarks.

The Washington, officials have again made a mistake concerning the word suspend for non-determination of a certain site for setting up of their nuclear reactor is what Mr. Qian Qichen means by the word suspend.

It is clear that this issue is a technical problem and does not mean cancellation or even suspension of the agreement between Tehran and Beijing. According to informed observers, apparently Washington officials have intended to trap Beijing through such a rush in announcing the news on the cancellation of this contract. China's resistance and repeated emphasis by the Chinese foreign minister on the fulfilment of the nuclear contract with Iran however, has left the Americans no choice but correcting their lies.

This is to be added that U.S. attempts aimed at restricting Iran's nuclear activities came at a time when international atomic agency as the highest world circles in the field of nuclear technology, has many times reiterated the peaceful objectives of Iran's nuclear activities. At any rate, the statements by the Chinese foreign minister in London and his stress on continued nuclear cooperation with Iran, are in fact another failure for Washington's officials in their approach towards Iran.

Commentary Discusses Mubarak-al-Asad Meeting

NC1110065795 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0445 GMT 11 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Commentary and Research Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of the compromise with the Zionist regime, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus yesterday. After 'Arafat and the Tel Aviv rulers signed the Taba agreement, some people foresaw that Syria would be pressured to review its political stances and that it would inevitably have to join the compromise process. But the recent futile talks between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher showed that Syria is not prepared to adhere to the artificial political atmosphere that has been created following the Taba agreement.

Extensive popular opposition to the agreement between the PLO and the Zionist regime, especially in the occupied territories and the Palestinian camps, and the United States' failure to draw Syria into the compromise process pose serious problems for this process, especially since the Zionist regime is not very faithful to its pacts—as it has repeatedly proven in the past—and, on various pretexts, is still postponing the withdrawal it was supposed to start 10 days after the Taba agreement.

Thus, Mubarak's visit to Damascus can be viewed in line with the U.S. efforts to exploit the atmosphere created by the Taba agreement—an agreement Hosni Mubarak played an effective role in formulating. Observers doubt Syria will be prepared to give in to pressure by the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

Commentary Addresses President's Visit to Vietnam

LD0610204295 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1130 GMT 6 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who has gone to Vietnam at the head of high politico-economic delegation, met with that country's president, Mr. Le Duc Anh. At the meeting, the Vietnamese president referred to the outcome of his last year's trip to Iran, saying that the exchange of views and friendly talks are indicative of good and strong relations between the two states. They will try to expand cooperation by means of common objectives.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, describing as important relations between Tehran and Hanoi, asked for employing all facilities to promote the relations.

Political experts say the trip of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Vietnam, which follows last year's trip of Vietnamese president to Iran, is significant because of the special position that the two countries of Iran and Vietnam have for the political point of view at the regional and international level. There is no doubt that in the post bi-polar world, the two countries can be considered as two regional and international powers. Each country has passed through a period of war against international plunderers and is now trying to take effective steps towards reforming the economy.

More important is that Iran and Vietnam have entered a level of development that their cooperation can be responding to each other's needs. The trip of the Islamic Republic of Iran's president to Vietnam is important because it is taking place after the trip of the Islamic Republic of Iran's president to three south-east Asian

countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei in his part of the efforts by Iran to bring closer the two major economic organizations of Asia, that is ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and o and finally the all-out Asian union. At any rate the geographical location of Iran and Vietnam in the two sensitive Asian regions, and their beginning the reconstruction, and their will to have cooperation on regional issues are the factors that make the two countries of Iran and Vietnam resolute to adopt common strategies to boost cooperation in all spheres.

Envoy, Cuban Minister Discuss Economic Cooperation

LD0710123395 Tehran IRNA in English
1209 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 7, IRNA — Expansion of Irano-Cuban economic cooperation was reviewed Thursday [5 October] in a meeting between Iranian ambassador to Cuba, Massud Edrisi Kermanshahi and the Cuban minister of economic and foreign investments cooperation, Ernesto Melendez Bachs.

Referring to the upcoming trip of Iranian commerce minister, Yahya ol-Eshaq to Cuba, Melendez described his trip as a step towards promoting bilateral ties.

He expressed hope that the sixth session of Irano-Cuban joint economic commission, due to be held early 1996 in Havana, would be considered as another step towards developing economic ties between Tehran and Havana.

Majiles Speaker, German Ambassador Discuss Ties

LD0710163195 Tehran IRNA in English
1555 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 7, IRNA — German ambassador to Tehran, Horst Beshmann said here on Saturday [7 October] that Tehran-Bonn relations were not limited to economic cooperation and that bilateral ties are in their highest possible level in all domains including political and cultural areas.

Meeting with Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, Beshmann said the forthcoming visit to Tehran of the German vice-president of Federal Assembly would be an important step to expand parliamentary relations between the two countries.

Nateq-Nuri appreciated the positive stand of Germany towards Iran and termed bilateral economic relations as extensive.

Nateq-Nuri hoped that the political and cultural relations would expand in parallel with economic cooperation.

Russian Ambassador Interviewed on Ties, Issues

NC0910191395 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Sep 95
pp 1, 2, 12

["Text" of "exclusive interview" with Russian Ambassador Sergey Mikhaylovich Tretyakov by unidentified correspondent on 24 September; place not given — all ellipses as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] [ABRAR] What is your opinion on the outlook of Russian-Iranian relations, especially when both countries intend to complete the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant and also consult each other and cooperate on regional security matters? Recently the feeling is that Western countries are dissatisfied with these relations. Also, their academic circles have recently embarked on a series of propaganda efforts and are expressing concern over Russia's presence in Iran. Please state your views on this and comment on whether relations with Russia are dangerous for Iran.

[Tretyakov] The current outlook of bilateral relations in all fields is very good. First of all, I would like to speak about political cooperation. You were right in saying that the two countries cooperate closely on regional security. We have many examples of fruitful Iranian-Russian cooperation. One of these is Tajikistan. On 17 September last year an agreement on a ceasefire and on halting the war in Tajikistan was signed by the two conflicting sides, thanks to the continuous efforts of Iran and Russia.

Of course, Tajikistan is only one example. Currently there are contacts on various levels for the solution of regional problems like the [Nagorno-] Karabakh conflict, and both sides have shown good cooperation for the solution of this problem. Another example of close Russian-Iranian cooperation is the Caspian Sea issue. In relation to this, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani put forth a good initiative in the form of the formation of the organization for the cooperation of the Caspian Sea littoral countries. We supported this initiative. Following that, a series of joint meetings and talks were held between Russian and Iranian delegations and the draft of an agreement was approved. Also, a conference of the deputy foreign ministers of the five Caspian Sea littoral countries was held in Moscow, where the draft agreement was approved by four littoral countries. Efforts in this field will continue, and I think that in the near future we will see the formation of this organization. The stands of Iran and Russia on this issue concur, and they believe that no unilateral attempt for the exploration and exploitation of the Caspian Sea's mineral resources is permissible.

[ABRAR] The question that arises here is that the Moscow-based SEGODNYA recently published an article on differences of opinion at the Russian Foreign Ministry and between the Russian Foreign Ministry and the Petroleum Ministry. This newspaper wrote that some believe that issues such as Baku's unilateral attempts in the Caspian Sea should be understood, while others disagree....

[Tretyakov] I will definitely answer this question. Both in Russia and, I think, in Iran there are various views on this issue. I mean the two countries' foreign ministries on the one hand, and their economic organizations and ministries on the other. The Russian Foreign Ministry's stand is that we defend the country's strategic and national interests.

[ABRAR] But Mr. Chernyshev (Russian deputy foreign minister) stated the opposite in Turkey....

[Tretyakov] Economic organizations and ministries have their own specific interests. Sometimes these interests are shortsighted. But the foreign ministry should defend the long term, strategic interests of the country. As far as Mr. Chernyshev is concerned, we do not know what the Turkish press wrote about this. But we are very well aware of Mr. Chernyshev's stands, especially since these stands are in line with the stands of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

[ABRAR] Therefore, the Turkish press distorted his remarks.

[Tretyakov] You are well aware that sometimes the press publishes odd reports which are far from reality. Let me give you an example. Recently Mr. Hagopian, a Russian official, was interviewed on Moscow-Tehran cooperation in the field of nuclear energy. I do not know precisely which newspaper or news agency distorted his remarks. But what happened was that a strange report on the sale of two additional reactors by Russia to Iran was published.

You possibly must know—and I too should explain—that what Mr. Hagopian meant was that Russia and Iran are holding talks on the construction of a new nuclear power plant with two reactors and nothing more. Then came the agreement by the Iranian and Russian sides on the completion of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant. There is no such thing as the sale of two nuclear reactors to Iran. So much for the press which distorts information. As far as the issue that you stated is concerned, some circles are expressing concern over Russia's presence in Iran. But I should say that there are such circles in Russia too....

[ABRAR] Which are relatively strong and influential!

[Tretyakov] I think that there are those who disagree in Iran as well....

[ABRAR] But there are more in Russia!

[Tretyakov] This is only natural since people have differing views and opinions. Nevertheless, Russia's policy is based on the consolidation and expansion of its relations with Iran because Russian and Iranian economies are economies of transition that are going through the phase of reforms. In relation to this, both sides have tried to overcome problems. Recently, the Russian deputy foreign minister visited Iran. Also, a delegation from Iran's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance went to Russia. As a result of the recent talks, the outlook of economic cooperation between the two countries is extremely bright and will rapidly progress.

[ABRAR] In view of the closeness of the parliamentary elections in Russia, we will possibly soon witness changes in the leadership cadre. How do you see the future of Tehran-Moscow relations after these developments—bearing in mind the fact that these relations are strategic, as you yourself have said? Will any group which comes to power after the parliamentary elections and the presidential elections consider these relations to be strategic or will these relations be sacrificed for relations with other countries?

[Tretyakov] The developments in Russian-Iranian nuclear cooperation showed that Moscow is not willing, in any way, to sacrifice its relations with Iran. I should say that not only does the Russian president understand the significance of relations with Iran, but the same view exists in Parliament too. The establishment of parliamentary relations between Iran and Russia has also helped. Our policy, which stems from national interests, cannot change with the change in power and government.

As to foreseeing which force will win in the parliamentary elections, I think that it is still too early and we cannot make any speculations yet.

[ABRAR] The question that exists is in relation to U.S. activities concerning Iran and Russia and its strong demand that relations between these two countries be severed. ABRAR newspaper has described this policy of the United States as the "policy of building a double dam in front of Iran and Russia." The examples of this policy are obvious. In Central Asia and in the Caucasus we see that the United States is trying to establish a military presence in every possible way. Also, we saw U.S. involvement in problems such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and increased military presence in the Persian Gulf waters. Meanwhile, in East Europe we see that the United States has started extensive efforts to extend NATO to Russia's

borders. What instruments do you think Iran and Russia have in order to safeguard their relations and to expand them (without me referring to a political or military confrontation with the United States)?

[Tretyakov] We have previously spoken about the Americans' efforts to influence Russia in the field of its nuclear cooperation with Iran. You know that some circles have been publishing imaginary reports about the Iranian-Russian nuclear cooperation. Also, deliberations on the issue are continuing in the U.S. Senate.

Before Mr. Clinton's visit to Moscow last month, I dared to foresee that he would not succeed in the Russian capital. We think—the conclusion that we draw—is that U.S. current activities will yield no results. We believe that cooperation with Iran is not only an economic issue, but a political one as well. Russia's leaders will defend their right to independently choose their friends and who they want to cooperate with in the world.

As far as Russia's reaction to recent world developments is concerned, I should say this reaction, in any place, depends on the developments.

You are aware of Moscow's reaction to NATO's intention to expand itself. I think that if necessary, the statements by the Russian leadership will specify Russia's steps. As to what steps or action Russia will take will depend on the specific situation that will prevail in the future.

[ABRAR] Let me ask my question in a clearer way here. After the developments in Iraq when Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn's son-in-law fled, the United States increased its military forces in the Persian Gulf in an unprecedented manner. I recall that in an interview which I had with you in 1993, it was stated that Iran and Russia are seeking a plan to prevent tension in the Persian Gulf. Was this plan pursued or not? At the same time, if the United States wants to resort to a military step in the region, what will Moscow's reaction be?

[Tretyakov] As far as the Russian-Iranian agreement on preventing dangerous military activities in the Persian Gulf is concerned, I should say that we have not yet completed this. I am confident that the signing of such an agreement between Iran and Russia will be an important factor for the consolidation of peace, stability, and mutual trust in the region.

As for foreign military presence in the Persian Gulf, Russia's stand is that before anything else, the regional countries themselves should solve the issue of regional security....

[ABRAR] Unfortunately, this has not yet happened because part of the regional countries which have created the grounds for foreign military presence have failed to undertake the responsibility of a collective security arrangement and, at the same time, they are assisting toward the increased presence of foreign military forces in the Persian Gulf and are granting them military bases as well.

[Tretyakov] You did not give me the opportunity to reply! Russia believes that all the regional countries should help and cooperate toward the establishment of security in the Persian Gulf....

[ABRAR] Is Russia prepared to participate in these arrangements or not?

[Tretyakov] The question on what the mechanism for the establishment of security in the Persian Gulf will be and whether the participation of foreign countries will be necessary in this or not should be discussed. At a certain juncture, views were voiced that foreign presence in the Persian Gulf should be under the UN flag. The mechanism for the establishment of security in the Persian Gulf can be in various forms and should be agreed upon by all sides. I believe that the main basis for the establishment of security in the region will be the existence of mutual trust among the regional countries.

[ABRAR] I will repeat my previous question. If foreign forces, which have increased in number, resort to military actions how will Russia react?

[Tretyakov] This is an extremely difficult question to answer! Basically, Russia is against any type of military operation for the solution of differences among countries. Definitely we cannot support the explosive situation in the region. The Persian Gulf is an extremely sensitive area, and you definitely can recall that during the past 15 years the region has witnessed two wars. Increased military potential in the region can lead to an illegitimate confrontation and can spark an incident which will have extremely grave consequences.

[ABRAR] Does Russia still accept the 1921 pact with Iran?

[Tretyakov] I can say that in its time, this pact was assessed as significant. Now we can study this issue from another aspect.

Currently some of the articles of this pact, like the article on the issue of the Caspian Sea, continue to be valid. Preserving articles such as this is to the benefit of both Iran and Russia.

[ABRAR] If the United States resorts to a military attempt in the region, how will Russia react? I want to have your personal view on this.

[Tretyakov] If this happens, Russia will react, although it is difficult to foresee what type of reaction this will be. Naturally tranquility, stability, and security in the Persian Gulf, which is close to the borders of Russia and of the CIS countries, is more important for Russia than it is for the United States which is 15,000 to 20,000 kilometers away. I think that for the Americans it is important that they have peace and stability near their borders. The same applies to Iran also.

[ABRAR] Last week Hasan Hasanov, foreign minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan asked that NATO carry out the same operations that it carried out in Kuwait and Bosnia in [Nagorno-] Karabakh, in other words to intervene militarily. Within your capacity as a representative of Russian diplomacy, what is your assessment of this, in view of the fact that Moscow currently opposes NATO's military presence in Eastern Europe?

[Tretyakov] What you have just said is very important, and it is necessary to know what is happening and then to react. As I said at the start of this interview, some correspondents and newspapers sometimes distort the remarks made by politicians....

[ABRAR] Baku has not yet refuted this issue (five days since the report was published).

[Tretyakov] I believe that foreign presence, especially military in nature, in the Caucasus will not be in the interest of the regional countries. Everything pertaining to the establishment of peace and security in the region, and namely the solution of the current disputes, should be solved by the regional countries.

[ABRAR] There are two issues concerning the Caucasus. The first is Turkey's interference. Last month Moscow officially accused Turkey of interfering in Russia's domestic affairs. I think that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev made this accusation and said that Turkey is interfering in Chechnya. Also, some time ago a Turkish spy was arrested in Dagestan.

Next, we have the issue of Geydar Aliyev's policies in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Recently SEGODNYA published an article about Baku's policies on the Caspian Sea. According to this newspaper, Russia can punish the disobedient countries in the Caspian Sea and, specifically the Republic of Azerbaijan, and sever their link with the Black Sea. If Baku continues its policies and wants to open the way for NATO to enter the Caucasus and, at the same time, pursue adventurist policies on Russia such as sending arms to the Chechen separatists, how will Moscow react?

[Tretyakov] As far as Chechnya is concerned, my conclusion is that the peace process there is strengthening,

and it is not important if some circles outside the country want to do something.

I want to seize this opportunity and thank the Islamic Republic of Iran for its realistic and friendly policy on the Chechen problem.

Some countries have had different stands from that of the Islamic Republic. The Chechen problem is a domestic problem of Russia and will be solved inside Russia, irrespective of whether there is interference in the issue or not.

Now, I think that time and the gradual solution of the Chechen problem will decrease the possibility for foreign interference.

In relation to the fact that some Russian newspapers have written about the punishment of some Caspian Sea countries, I think that the use of force is not a suitable method. Under the current conditions, the stands of Tehran and Moscow on Caspian Sea problems are almost equal. The Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Azerbaijan too each have their own stand on the Caspian Sea issue.

[ABRAR] But Kazakhstan has recently changed its stand to a certain extent.

[Tretyakov] Of course not on all issues. Nevertheless, there are differences of view. Discussions on the plan that was prepared and signed last summer during the conference of the Caspian Sea littoral countries' foreign ministry officials will continue in Almaty in October. Of course both Russia and Iran have not stayed idle during this period. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Bolshakov visited Almaty, Baku, and Ashkabad. Prime Minister Chernomyrdin too visited Kazakhstan recently.

We believe that the current possibilities allow us to hold talks. We will use these possibilities in the best way. We also know that our partners in Iran are in the process of talks with the Caspian Sea countries. I think that if some people don't understand that the Caspian Sea's problems must be solved through unanimity of views, they will understand this in the future. In view of the exigencies of the day, if the Caspian Sea's legal status is not determined, the risk for investing in the Caspian Sea will be very great for the investing countries.

[ABRAR] My other question is about Afghanistan. Recently there have been developments in that country. The Taleban Group, which had been greatly weakened after its defeats this year, was once again suddenly strengthened with assistance from abroad—both in the form of money and arms—and they were able to occupy considerable parts of Afghan territory. Political analysts believe that these developments are actually to the

benefit of Pakistani and U.S. diplomacy. They conclude that the developments in Afghanistan will end in the way that they want them to end and will open the way to Central Asia; and the intention is to reduce the dependence of the countries in that region on Russia and to establish good relations between these countries and the West. The first sign of this may be seen in the membership of this region's countries in NATO's partnership for peace plan. What is your opinion on this and, at the same time, do you assess the victory of the Uzbeks and the Pashtuns in Afghanistan as something that can strengthen the idea of Pan-Turkism in one way or another?

[Tretyakov] The recent developments in Afghanistan can only be a source of regret. Russia does not intend to return to the policies of the former Soviet Union. Six years have passed since then. But unfortunately the war continues—a war which is actually a power struggle. The recent developments in Afghanistan and the new round of military tension in that country will not be to the benefit of the Afghan people. For us, the stands of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the developments in Afghanistan were natural and correct since these developments are related to the Islamic Republic's national security.

We too believe that the developments in Afghanistan are linked with other countries. The dismemberment of Afghanistan is not in the interest of any of the regional countries—Iran, Pakistan, India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, or Turkmenistan. The developments in Afghanistan can lead to the dismemberment of that country both from the religious and ethnic aspects. There are both short- and long-term interests involved in this. If there are circles or forces that support one faction in Afghanistan, they should understand what the situation is.

[ABRAR] Recently Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen visited Russia and met with Mr. Yeltsin and other officials. It was stated there that China and Russia will cooperate for the establishment of stability in Asia. It was also noted that 10 agreements are to be signed. What type of agreements are these. Are they political or economic? These agreements will undoubtedly be to the benefit of tranquility in Central Asia and in the Western Pacific.

[Tretyakov] I do not have specific information at present on this since this visit ended yesterday [23 September].

On the other hand, the closeness of the two countries' stands on a series of world and regional issues was emphasized. This visit paves the way for the consolidation and expansion of Russian-Chinese cooperation, namely in Asian security. I believe that security in Asia cannot be established without the close cooperation of these

two countries. Also, I think that one of the objectives of this visit was to give new impetus to economic cooperation between China and Moscow, which has been rising in the past few years.

[ABRAR] There are two issues relating to East Europe. The first is NATO's military operations in former Yugoslavia, and the second is NATO's efforts to extend its boundaries to East Europe. As far as the second issue is concerned, NATO officials and namely the defense minister [not further identified] and the NATO commander in Europe recently paid many visits to East European countries. Also, during his visit to Washington, Albanian President Sali Berisha stated that he will place a military base at the United States' disposal. These are happening exactly in the same area which—at a specific juncture in history—were under the influence of the former Soviet Union. These two issues manifest the West's new policy in Europe vis-à-vis Russia. How do you view the fact that the West—fearing future developments in Russia or because of confronting Moscow's current policies—is trying to surround Russia with countries that are friendly toward the West? Meanwhile, it has been stated that the possibility of the creation of a defense pact by Russia does exist.

[Tretyakov] The possibility of the formation of such an alliance, with the participation of CIS countries, is being voiced in Moscow.

In the past, there were two military pacts—NATO and the Warsaw Pact. But now the Warsaw Pact has been dissolved and there is no justification for the preservation or strengthening of NATO's military structure and the expansion of its boundaries. Those who support this idea underline the use of NATO's military structure as a police or a peacekeeping force.

At the time when NATO was formed, a bipolar system ruled in Europe and both NATO and the Warsaw Pact pursued specific goals. Now there is the Organization of Cooperation and Security in Europe, and the current atmosphere is totally different from the past. I think that with the existence of new political structures in Europe we should approach the solution of crises in Europe from a completely new angle.

My personal opinion on NATO's military operations is totally negative. I do not think that NATO's operations can help achieve peace.

[ABRAR] In view of the meeting among the Russian, Bulgarian, and Greek officials, can the conclusion be drawn from these meetings that they took place in reaction to attempts by NATO and the West, or have agreements been reached?

[Tretyakov] Greece is a NATO member....

[ABRAR] Greece is a NATO member, but it has regional differences with NATO and Turkey....

[Tretyakov] Yes. Greece is a NATO member. But the stands of Russia and Greece on the former Yugoslavia are the same. Russia and Greece have had and have very close contacts concerning a solution for the Yugoslav crisis, similar to the contacts between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Greece. I recall that a tripartite conference was held in Tehran among the Islamic Republic of Iran, Greece, and Bosnia. This was a significant political step. We have expressed our opposition with the use of force in solving the problem in the former Yugoslavia. You are aware of Russia's stand on the NATO and UN agreements for NATO operations in Bosnia. I repeat that Moscow does not see any positive point in NATO's military presence in the former Yugoslavia and is not willing to participate in these operations.

[ABRAR] My last question is on whether you have any information about Mr. Yeltsin's visit? In one of your interviews with an Iranian newspaper, you said that the Russian president is due to come to Iran by the end of this year.

[Tretyakov] I have explained about that interview. That newspaper had made a mistake. Basically speaking, he is to visit Iran. But I cannot give a specific date. This depends on the program of the presidents of Russia and of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as on the preparation of the documents that are to be signed.

[ABRAR] Mr. Tretyakov. Thank you for this interview.

Finance Minister Meets With Russian Counterpart
LD1110091895 Tehran IRNA in English
1305 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA — Iranian Finance Minister Morteza Mohammad Khan and some of his advisors met with Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) headquarters in Washington Monday [9 October].

The meeting, held on the sidelines of the joint IMF-World Bank meeting, both sides called for the strengthening of bilateral and cooperation. [sentence as received]

They also agreed that a Russian delegation would soon visit Tehran to draw the blueprint for wider cooperation between the two countries and prepare the ground for a new agreement to be signed by Tehran and Moscow during the forthcoming visit to Tehran of President Boris Yeltsin.

Japanese Official on Expansion of Economic Ties

LD0910201595 Tehran IRNA in English
2007 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA — Trade representative of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) at the Tehran international trade fair, Maduka Anishi, told IRNA's economic reporter here today that in the current year Iran repaid dlr. 900,000,000 of its debts to Japan. The repayment has brightened hopes in Tokyo of cooperation with Tehran, said Anishi calling his country among the best customers of Iran.

Referring to Tehran-Tokyo industrial cooperation, he stated that the two countries have had "historic and traditional relations." Iran could play a significant role in the international community, he underlined.

At the end of his interview, Anishi expressed hope that the two countries' economic relations would further expand.

Resistance Council Holds Session on 'Developments'

LD0310163695 (Internet) Soc.Culture.Iranian
in English 2124 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Council of Resistance [NCR] of Iran held its interim session on September 23 to 25. The session discussed the general political developments, aggravation of the crises of the Khomeyni regime, rising status of the Resistance and the activities of the Council's committees and representative offices in various countries.

The session examined many of the new applications for membership and started the process of taking votes on them. The results will be publicly announced in the order ratified.

In a message to this session, NCR President Mas'ud Rajavi congratulated the members and President-elect of the National Council of Resistance on the Council's decision to expand the NCR. "The Council's structure will thus adapt to the comprehensive advancements of the sole independent and democratic alternative during the two years following the election of the President for the transitional period (after the overthrow of the mullahs' regime)," Mr. Rajavi elaborated on the decision.

Participation of the Iranian Resistance's women delegation in the Fourth World Conference in Beijing topped the reports discussed in the session. The delegation was headed by Mrs. Maryam Matin-Daftary, chair of the NCR committee for women's rights and freedoms, and its achievements were evaluated by the session as "a major political, social and cultural success" in confrontation with the fundamentalist regime ruling Iran and "a

remarkable and valuable progress" for the Iranian Resistance on the international level.

In his message, the NCR President described the participation of the Iranian Resistance's 14-member delegation in the Beijing conference as a "priceless victory." Citing various political and press reports, Mr. Rajavi emphasized, "Iran was the single unique case where the country was practically represented by two delegations (one from the regime and the other from the Resistance), a noteworthy fact which reflects the future prospects for a democratic Iran."

Among the reports by NCR representatives, Mrs. Marzieh's political meetings in the United States and the Congressional dinner reception in her honor — welcomed by a considerable number of elected representatives of the American people — were particularly noticed and admired in the session. Mrs. Marzieh is the advisor to the Resistance's President-elect in arts and cultural affairs.

Another development, evaluated as a "precious step in expanding the Council's diplomatic activities," was the Resistance delegation's representation of Iran in the ceremonies marking the United Nation's fiftieth anniversary in Perugia, Italy.

The NCR representative office in the Netherlands was also lauded for its activities in defense of the rights of Iranian refugees during the recent judicial proceedings on their fate in The Hague.

[Issued by] Secretariat of the National Council of Resistance of Iran - Paris September 29, 1995

'Hardline Clerics' Role in Elections Viewed

MM0310150395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Oct 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Amir Taheri: "Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Opponents Form Front for Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Hard-line clerics in Iran, whom Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani abandoned in 1992, have begun to form a unified front to enter the parliamentary elections scheduled to be held next March, stressing that their return will be "sensational."

Mehdi Karrubi, a senior hard-line cleric and former speaker of the Iranian Majles, said at a meeting with his supporters in Tehran yesterday: "We are ready to put our revolution on the correct path again." Karubi is one of 77 mullahs who were considered "unsuitable" to run for the Majles because the government committee considered their ideological identity "unsuitable." That was considered an insult to the hard-line mullahs, who

blame Hashemi-Rafsanjani for it and are now hoping to recover power and take revenge politically.

It is worth mentioning that Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati announced yesterday that all candidates must register their names at his ministry by mid-February 1996, that is a month before the first round of elections.

As is known, hard-liners have rebuilt their political bases over the past two years and are now publishing three dailies and four magazines. More importantly, two of their prominent leaders, including Karubi and former Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, have been appointed "special advisers" to Iranian Guide 'Ali Khamene'i. [passage omitted]

Article Discusses Clergy, Political Future

95LH0246A Doha AL-SHARQ in Arabic 29 Jul 95 p 9

[Article by Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni: "Horizons of Coming Political Phase in Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After a long silence and premature action coupled with rumors and counter-rumors by the Iranian political and intellectual circles on the question of the resignation of Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, secretary general of the Militant Cleric Association or Rohanit Mobarez, from his position, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq Nuri, chairman of the Islamic Consultative Council, dotted the i's and crossed the t's connected with this issue when he said, "For a long time, Mahdavi-Kani, secretary general of the Militant Cleric Association, has been demanding that he be familiarized with all details of the current developments connected with the association's movements. He has rarely delegated responsibilities to others and he has been especially sensitive to issues."

Because the association has been an organization moving in the direction of partisanship and of a disciplined organizational management of affairs, Mahdavi-Kani has not accepted this tendency, according to Nateq-Nuri. He has also said that in one session, he asked Mahdavi-Kani to "withdraw his resignation, with the provision that his demands be met as much as possible." It seems that the conflict has worsened and led to the resignation that has preoccupied for weeks not just the Iranian political and intellectual circles but also the diplomatic circles residing in Iran.

With his recent statements on the issue, Nateq-Nuri has touched off a silent crisis that had existed between two tendencies or two courses found among Iran's religious corps. This crisis concerns the pattern needed to manage the Islamic rule of Iran and it has existed since the first founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran disappeared. The

crisis has been kept out of the public eye and out of the press and the media for a long time.

Because of the special importance of this "incident," of the sensitive nature of the issue raised for public deliberation from now on, and of the delicacy with which Iranian clergymen have historically tackled such issues, one must ponder deeply all that prominent statesmen and ulema will say in this context.

Let us first complete what Nateq-Nuri said in his comment on the issue in response to the questions of some Iranian theology students during an inspection tour he made to a southern Iranian province.

Adding to what he said above and explaining the historical aspect of the issue, without tying it to the resignation directly, Nateq-Nuri said in a completely clear context, "We hear some grumbles here and there and some articles published at times by the press projecting the pattern which advocates separating church from state and clergymen from the government."

Referring to the late Imam Khomeyni, Nateq-Nuri said, "Had he thought in this manner, there would have been no revolution. I believe that this course is projected by vigilant enemies through ignorant friends." Speaking more explicitly, Nateq Nuri added, "Some papers publish articles through which the writers try to project that rule belongs to the wise and that the jurisprudent's successor is not a ruler but a man commissioned by the people and, consequently, also removable by the people."

After touching on the Iranian clergymen's history, on their position in defense of the country's independence, and on how the Iranian constitutional movement (early in the century) and the revolutions that followed would not have failed if it had not been for the people's indifference, especially the indifference of university people, toward public issues, Nateq-Nuri makes this conclusion, "In the Islamic Consultative Council, we are in definite need of specialists in the various fields. Specialization in Islamic affairs is one of these fields. Therefore, clergymen cannot be excluded in this regard." He goes on to add, "In the history of colonialist agreements, it has never so happened that we have read that a clergymen ever signed his name to such agreements. Therefore, we must emphasize the need for the quantitative presence of clergymen in the council in order to strengthen this historical fact."

Perhaps this is the main point Nateq Nuri wanted to express when he answered theology students' questions concerning the crisis that has become as of now an open crisis between two intellectual tendencies connected

with rule required system of government in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This is because those who are aware of the true nature of the silent crisis that has existed between the Militant Cleric Association's secretary general and a large number of the association's Central Consultative Council members say in this regard that Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, a prominent ulema and jurisprudent who was appreciated by the late Imam Khomeyni and who is deeply rooted in the subjects of jurisprudence and the Islamic system of government, is absolutely not an advocate of separating church from state or clergymen from government, but Mahdavi-Kani, who became interior minister for a short time during Imam Khomeyni's time, is a man who believes that clergymen must steer away as much as possible from the facade of executive authorities and must focus as much as possible on positions of control and supervision over government executives who are customarily assigned to their jobs by the jurisprudent's successor and who are controlled by numerous legal and legislative councils. Mahdavi-Kani advocates all this so the clergyman's reputation will be preserved and so the clergyman will renounce power but will not lag behind in shouldering the responsibility. Consequently, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani has developed a definite conviction that no clergymen should be nominated for the next presidency, especially when President Rafsanjani's second term ends and when Rafsanjani cannot run as candidate in the coming elections. Moreover, it is not in the interest of the Militant Cleric Association to turn into a party organization like other political party organizations that are not reluctant to wage conventional political battles. Clergymen should rise above such battles, which is something that both predecessors to Mahdavi-Kani, namely Ayatollah Beheshti and Ayatollah Motahher, had advocated.

The is the gist of what is said by those who know the true reasons that have motivated Mahdavi-Kani to resign when he realized that he had no place in the new organization that is inclined to become party-like, as Nateq-Nuri has said. This organization plans to wage the coming parliamentary campaign next March with all its forces, as Nateq-Nuri has pointed out. Therefore, Nuri has the definite wish to rise to the position of president when he wages the expected campaign nearly two years from now in the name of the tendency of the new League of Clergymen, which will normalize its course as a presumed party.

According to informed sources that are closely connected with the clergymen's circles, the tendency about which Nateq-Nuri has spoken and which seeks to become a party represents the "religious tendency of the conventional right" (conservative right) which is allied

with the leadership of the Iranian bazaar. The sources find that this tendency has been trying to arrange its affairs for some time because of the emergence and crystallization of a "rising modern religious tendency." This tendency has rallied behind President Rafsanjani in one form or another and it will be able after a time to compete seriously with the conventional (conservative) religious right. One should keep in mind that this tendency is allied with a broad base of the bazaar and that it has been tirelessly seeking to form an alliance with a "rising modern leftist religious" tendency that is also crystallizing gradually in the form of a modern party since the conventional leftist religious tendency split into several tendencies.

In such a "heated election campaign," Mahdavi-Kani sees, according to his close associates, that it is better for clergymen, especially prominent clergymen, to supervise and to play the role of overseers in an "election campaign that is sound in principle," that does not offend the clergy, and that does not depict clergymen as people "clinging to the secular chair under all circumstances because it is futile to rule." According to experts on this file, this issue is the issue of the old and constant conflict "between the free will group to which Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani belongs and the predetermination group," whose spokesman these days is Parliamentary Speaker Nateq-Nuri.

Last but not least, it must be noted that the Militant Cleric Association known in Farsi as Jame'ye Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez, is the most famous and broadest religious organization. Its membership encompasses a broad range of intellectual and political visions and tendencies. It is also the organization that practically led the extensive protest activities against the shah's regime in the final year of the Iranian monarchy and prior to the revolution. At the time, the league included clergymen in the capital, Tehran.

This association maintained its organizational and intellectual unity until three years before Khomeyni's death. That is when prominent names and figures broke away from the league and then formed, with Imam Khomeyni's tacit approval, Majma' Rohaniyun Mobarez, whose most prominent leaders include Ayatollah Karrobi, Ayatollah Musavi Kho'ini, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and other leaders characterized as religious radicals or leftists. It can be said that the most prominent figures remaining in the mother league are Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, the resigned secretary general, and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. They also include lesser-known figures, the most prominent of which is Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri.

Pakistan

Ali's Remarks on Kashmir, U.S. Visit Reported

BK0810143495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has said relations between Pakistan and the United States have improved, and the nuclear issue is no longer a cause of friction at the bilateral level. He was addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon after his return from the UN General Assembly session and meetings with American officials and leaders. He said the adoption of the Brown Amendment will increase economic cooperation, investment, and exchange in different sectors.

Pakistan has been assured during his meetings with the U.S. defense secretary, Mr. William Perry, and the assistant secretaries of state, Robin Raphel and Peter Turnoff, that the U.S. Administration will have an even-handed policy in South Asia, and whatever is made available to Pakistan under certain laws will not be given to India.

The foreign minister said that he has delivered a letter from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, asking him once again to mediate on Kashmir issue between Pakistan and India. It was also conveyed to American Administration that Pakistan would welcome their mediation on the issue. He said the onus of responsibility is completely on New Delhi to accept talks or mediation, as Pakistan was ready for any modality for solving the Kashmir dispute.

[Islamabad PTV Television Network in English at 1300 GMT on 8 October adds: "Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said Pakistan desires to revive bilateral dialogue with India, but it will go into it only if it is structured and Kashmir occupies top place. He was addressing a news conference after his visit to a number of European countries and the United States where he addressed the General Assembly session and had meetings with UN secretary general and American leaders."

[An Ali recording is shown during which the foreign minister says: "There has been backtracking by the Indians on the issue of talks on Kashmir. Previously, and under the Simla agreement, the foreign secretaries used to meet to specifically discuss the Kashmir dispute in all its entirety, and this is the first time the Indian Government is talking about unconditional talks. So, we have once again informed the world body that we cannot accept this way of talking. Talks have to be structured; they have to be focused on the Kashmir dispute as a principal dispute in South Asia."

[The PTV report continues: "Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said he has told the UN secretary general and the American leaders that Pakistan would welcome their mediation on Kashmir.

"About his meetings with the American leaders, he said these provided opportunity to review efforts of the American Administration and Senator Brown's lobbying for the lifting of sanctions against Pakistan under the Pressler Amendment."]

Leadership Views Punjab, Karachi, National Security

BK0810092695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
8 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Raja Zulfikar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The Punjab situation, Karachi crisis and issues of national security came under discussion during separate and joint meetings among Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Waheed and President Farooq Leghari.

Informed official sources said the sessions lasted for about four hours and "a host of issues, national as well as international, were discussed."

The Chief of the Army Staff reportedly joined in the meeting only for a limited time and the discussion then focused mainly on the situation in Afghanistan. However, Karachi was the main national subject that came up for discussion in that meeting.

The troika discussed in addition, the latest situation in Kashmir with regard to an escalation in atrocities in Kashmiris and increased human rights violations in the valley. Another point discussed was the developments after Islamabad's initial breakthrough viz-a-viz the Brown Amendment.

Source said that during her meeting with President Farooq Leghari, the Prime Minister discussed her forthcoming visit to the meeting of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Also, her visit to the United States beginning shortly after the middle of the current month was discussed.

The Prime Minister who is leaving for Lahore possibly for a day's stay on Sunday [8 October] discussed the prospects of the new senior provincial minister after the death of Makhdoom Altaf Ahmed.

She discussed with the President the name of Malik Mushtaq Awan for the vacant post, for whom a lobby has been quite active and has sent verbal and written requests to the Prime Minister to elevate him as the new senior minister.

Mushtaq Awan who already has the party office (President PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Punjab) has also faced some opposition from the party itself, some of whose members have tried to prevent him being made a senior minister.

The two reportedly finalised the name of the next man which the Premier is expected to make public some time tomorrow in Lahore. But prior to this, she is due to have a meeting with Chief Minister Sardar Arif Nakal. The Punjab Governor Raja Saroop will also be present. There was some confusion as to the participation of PML-J [Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo] Chief Hamid Nasir Chattha in Sunday's meeting in Lahore because the Public Accounts Committee, of which he is a member, is due to meet in Islamabad to elect its boss.

MQM Said Seeking Kabul Aid To Cause Karachi Unrest

BK1110060195 Islamabad THE NATION in English
11 Oct 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — A 5-member delegation of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] led by Irshad Hussain arrived Kabul from London recently and met Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

The MQM delegation reportedly delivered Altaf Hussain's message to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in which Altaf Hussain had offered one million dollars to President Rabbani for welfare and rehabilitation of Afghan refugees and also sought Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's assistance in creating disturbance in Karachi.

Altaf Hussain is reported to have offered that besides payment of Rs [rupees]. 5000 [figure as published] per month, the mercenaries would also be given price for every successful operation.

'Notorious Terrorist,' Accomplices Said Killed

LD1010115895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi, a notorious terrorist, Fahim Farooqi, alias Fahim Commando, and his three accomplices were killed in an ambush on a police group which was taking them to recover arms from a house in Nazimabad. The Interior Minister Major General Nasrullah Khan Babar, told newsmen in Karachi today that Fahim and his accomplices this morning were being taken to a house which they had identified as containing arms. The party came under attack from the roof of the building and the four people in custody were killed.

The interior minister said the Altaf Group was responsible for yesterday's rocket attack on the new Sindh Sec-

retariat Building. He said the Altaf Group is involved in terrorism in the city. The minister said the terrorists involved looked quite well trained and it is believed that they fired the rockets from the roof of the houses being constructed at the back of the secretariat building. He said that ballistics experts are examining the point from where the rockets may have been fired. When asked whether he suspected the involvement of some other professionally trained groups in such acts of terrorism, the interior minister said there was such a possibility. Replying to another question, he said two persons have been detained for investigation.

Altaf Group Calls For Day of Mourning, Inquiry

BK1110045495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The District Magistrate, Karachi Central, has ordered a judicial inquiry into the killing of Faheem Commando and appointed SDM [subdivisional magistrate] Nazimabad as inquiry officer. An official announcement said in Karachi yesterday that the inquiry officer has started the proceedings.

A press note issued in Karachi last night said eight persons were killed and five others injured in the incidents related to terrorism in the city.

The Rabta [Coordination] Committee of Altaf [MQM] Group has decided to observe Yaum-i-Sog [Day of Mourning] tomorrow on the killing by firing of their eight activists. This was stated by the chief negotiator of the Altaf Group, Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi, while talking to APP in Karachi last night. He also said that they were awaiting as to when a judge of the High Court is appointed to conduct judicial probe into the killing of their activists as stated by the interior minister.

The leader of the opposition, Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said every patriotic citizen is highly concerned over the situation in Karachi. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport before his departure for London yesterday, he criticized the handling of the situation by the government.

MQM Calls For 12 Oct Strike

BK1110065895 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 11 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — Amid mounting tension in the city following the killing of Fahim commando and six other party activists in police custody, the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] on Tuesday [10 October] asked the people of Sindh to observe a strike on Thursday (tomorrow).

The decision was taken at a meeting of the party's Coordination Committee held at the office of Ajmal Dehlvi. Talking to The News after the meeting, Dehlvi confirmed a strike has been called for Thursday. He said Yaum-i-Dua [day of prayer] will be observed Friday to pray for the souls of those killed in what he called the government brutalities.

He said the committee has appealed to the muhajirs as well as others across the Sindh province to keep businesses, shops, schools and transport closed in solidarity with the slain MQM activists.

In a statement Tuesday night, the coordination committee rejected the official version that the four activists, namely Fahim Farooqi alias Commando, Zee-shan Haider Abidi, Yusuf Rahman alias Rizwan and Khurshid Anwar, were killed while guiding the people to some criminals in Nazimabad.

It said all four were taken out of jail and killed by the police personnel.

It further said three more activists of the party, namely Mohammad Pervez, Mohammad Imran and Mohammad Safdar, were gunned down in Korangi soon after being picked up by police on Tuesday.

The committee appealed to all political and religious parties as well as human rights organisations to take notice of such extra-judicial murders.

In another statement, Altaf Hussain appealed to the people to offer prayers for the innocent victims killed indiscriminately by government agencies.

Government Team Leader Comments on Karachi Talks

BK0710084395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal minister for law and justice and chief of the government's negotiation team, Professor N.D. Khan, says the government has offered many concessions to the Altaf Group during the ninth round of talks for securing peace and tranquillity in Karachi, but they preferred to suspend them. Speaking at the APP forum in Islamabad today, he said it was the Altaf Group which did not turn up for talks on the 26th of last month claiming a deadlock. He pointed out they are on record having said that a definite progress had been made in the talks and that dialogue would continue.

Professor N.D. Khan said that the talks had been started with the basic spirit of restoring peace in Karachi on the basis of quid pro quo and it is the responsibility of both the sides to contribute toward restoration of peace

and tranquillity. He, however, said the government side will give reply to Mr. Dehlvi's letter which, however, raised no political issue which warrants a reply. The law minister said the leader of the Altaf Group team, Mr. Dehlvi, has raised the question of detainees, who in the government's record were terrorists. He stated that Anwar Zaidi is involved in 42 heinous crimes, mainly those of murder charges, while Sayeed Negro was involved in 17 cases of murders and dacoities [robberies].

Government Asks Altaf Group To Set Date for Talks

BK0810160095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] N.D. Khan, federal law minister and leader of the government negotiating team, has invited Ajmal Dehlvi, head of the Altaf Group negotiating team, to set a date and time for the resumption of talks. In a letter to Ajmal Dehlvi, N.D. Khan reminded him that their negotiations have been focused on a one-point agenda of reestablishing peace in Karachi. He denied that any of the Altaf Group's workers had died in custody as a result of torture in any jail in Sindh. He also rejected the allegation that any of the Altaf Group's leaders or workers is in the custody of any agency anywhere in the country illegally.

MQM Negotiator Says Government Fails on Promises

BK0910093495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 9 Oct 95 p 1, 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi-MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] chief negotiator Ajmal Dehlvi has said government has failed to fulfil the promises made with the MQM which clearly indicates that the other side is not serious in holding talks rather adopting delaying tactics.

Talking to The Nation, he said when a member of government negotiating team Zuhair Akram Nadeem contacted him at his office and informed him that Shazia Farooq would have been released by the time they were discussing the situation. But Ajmal said unfortunately Shazia Farooq has not been released so far. He said Interior Minister had confirmed reportedly that Shazia is still in police custody.

This dual policy of the Government he said is not understandable for them he said. Replying to a question he said stalemate is still continuing and the reply to the government letter would be given soon. He said negotiations on table are suspended while negotiations through letters is continuing.

When asked whether MQM will participate in the Black Day call by the Opposition leader in the National Assembly, he said it is premature to say anything as October 19 is too far yet.

He said despite Zuhair's assurances that protection will be provided to the negotiating team as was provided earlier, the administration has failed to give safety to the members of negotiating team.

He also disclosed that MQM leaders twice sought permission from the Home Ministry for meeting with detained MPA [Member of Provincial Assembly] Rana Sa'ad but they were not granted permission.

Though he said ban on political activities of MQM according to Government was lifted, the basic rights of MQM leaders and workers one being usurped. The government he said is deceiving MQM by making false promises which he said would create an uneasy situation for holding peaceful negotiations.

MQM Team Said 'Free To Travel Abroad'

BK0910105195 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Oct 95 p 12

[Bureau Report: "MQM Negotiators Not on ECL—Babar"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Oct 8: Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar has said that the members of the MQM negotiating team, are free to travel abroad. Their names are not on the Exit Control List, he said.

Talking to newsmen here, he said if team members "wish to travel to London or anywhere else, they can go. There is no ban on them."

His statement sets at rest a bitter controversy about the government intentions towards the Mohajir party. About the MQM demand for the release of [word indistinct] worker, [name indistinct] Farooq, the Minister said that the demand can be considered. But he said he had no knowledge about the statement reportedly given by the government negotiating team member Zohair Akram Nadeem in Karachi last Thursday [5 October]. In that statement, he had announced the release of the lady activist.

Babar explained that the Karachi problem was both administrative and political and as Interior Minister he was dealing with its administrative aspect. The political aspect of the problem was being dealt with by the government negotiating team.

He had promised to restore peace in Karachi by December. He was sticking to his plans, and peace will

be restored in the port city within three months. However he felt that the government must simultaneously implement its Karachi package for the socio-economic development of the city.

Plan To Extradite Altaf Hussain From UK Reported

*BK1010151395 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu
10 Oct 95 p 6, 8*

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad—A new strategy has been devised to overcome the objections of Interpol and the UK Government to the extradition of Muhajir Qaumi Movement leader Altaf Hussain to Pakistan. Federal Investigation Agency sources claim that sufficient materials have been gathered to counter the objections and pleas raised by Interpol and the UK Government in response to the Pakistani Government's request to extradite Altaf Hussain. After receiving high-level government approval, which is expected in the near future, full efforts will be made to bring Altaf Hussain back by providing these materials to Interpol and the UK Government.

Accord Signed With Spain for Development Credit

*BK0310135895 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1300 GMT 3 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Spain will provide Pakistan with a credit of \$70 million for development projects. An agreement to this effect was signed in Islamabad today. Additional Secretary Economic Affairs Division Mr. Rifaq Askari and President of the Spanish Institute for Official Credit (Miguel Munis Kuiwa) signed the agreement on behalf of their country. Under the agreement, Spain will provide funds for strengthening civic services in Karachi, procurement of drilling rigs and road construction machinery to Sindh Arid Zone Development Authority, and 220 kilovolt substations at Tando Muhammad Khan and Shikarpur.

Sri Lanka

Defense Ministry Updates Operation 'Thunder Strike'

*BK0810133395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 8 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A news release by the Operations Headquarters of the Ministry of Defense said that terrorists engaged the troops manning defense positions under operation Thunder Strike in Achchuveli East around 2300 on Friday [7 October]. The troops retaliated and effectively beat back the terrorists, killing four of the attackers.

The news release also stated that, shortly after midnight, a group of terrorists attempted to infiltrate the defense in the Puthur area. The attackers were beaten back by the troops. One soldier was killed, and two others were wounded. Around 0500 yesterday, security forces killed three terrorists who were trying to escape from within the defended area at Achchuveli East. Troops also recovered three weapons. One soldier was injured during the confrontation.

The operation Thunder Strike continues.

LTTE Reportedly Renews Attacks Against Army

*BK0910102095 Hong Kong AFP in English
1011 GMT 9 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 9 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas launched a heavy mortar attack against army positions in northern Sri Lanka Monday [9 October] and hit a home for the elderly, killing nine people, the military said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) also fired crude home made bombs near a Methodist church and a government hospital inside the Jaffna peninsula, a military statement said.

The latest attack ended a 48-hour lull in fighting in the embattled northern Jaffna peninsula where security forces captured a 25-square-kilometer (10-square mile) area from the rebels after an offensive begun nine days ago.

In addition to the deaths, "several inmates of the elders' home were injured and were admitted to the Palaly military hospital," a military spokesman said. "The home was hit by a Pasilan mortar which the Tigers make in their own workshops."

He said the home was located within the area security forces captured from the rebels after launching the "Thunder Strike" offensive nine days ago.

Army Chief Vows 'To Annihilate' Tamil Rebels

*BK1110044595 Hong Kong AFP in English
0432 GMT 11 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 11 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's Army Commander Lieutenant General Gerry de Silva Wednesday [11 October] said the military planned to launch a major operation shortly and vowed to annihilate the separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

De Silva said the government's campaign against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had entered its final phase with the military procuring a large consignment of weapons and enlisting more combatants in the past year.

In a message to mark the 46th anniversary of the army, de Silva said the LTTE had begun a "barbaric war" after breaking off peace talks with Colombo in April.

"A tactically feasible plan to wage a successful war against the enemy in the near future is afoot ... we should resolve to strike the enemy with all our might with a sense of determination and comradeship, and annihilate the brutal separatists.

"I wish to stress that during the planned major military operations intended to be carried out in the very near future, we have to conduct ourselves with a feeling of compassion towards the civilians," de Silva said.

He said the training of new army recruits had been changed in recent years to meet the threat of the Tamil Tigers who are leading a 23-year-old guerrilla war to establish a separate homeland in the island's north-east.

"We will be able to fulfill the expectations of all sections of our people by safeguarding the sovereignty of our country and arriving at a lasting victory," said de Silva.

LTTE Reportedly Attempts To Kill Tamil Party Leader

*BK1010012995 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0035 GMT 10 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Sri Lanka, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] made an abortive attempt to kill the leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party, EPDP, in Colombo last night. Four EPDP members were killed in the firing. The DIG [Deputy Inspector General] police, Mr. Kottakadeniya, told newsmen at the site that LTTE cadres threw grenades outside and inside the house where Mr. Douglas Devananda [leader of EPDP] was supposed to be staying.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0532 GMT 10 Oct 95 datelined Colombo adds the following details: Unidentified gunmen hurled grenades and opened fire at the residence of a pro-government Tamil politician in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo Monday [9 October], killing at least four of his bodyguards, police said.

The gunmen exchanged fire with bodyguards of Tamil legislator Douglas Devananda, leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) and escaped after killing the four, police said.

Police deputy Inspector-General H. M. Kotakadeniya said the victims had been identified as body guards of Devananda who was missing after the attack shortly before midnight Monday.

"We believe the attackers threw bombs or grenades and then entered the house and opened fire. We don't know what happened to Mr. Devananda," Kotakadeniya said,

adding that the politician had been inside the house at the time.

He speculated that Devananda may have escaped or been abducted by the attackers. A city-wide search for the get-away vehicle and the attackers was quickly launched.

A three-wheeler taxi, a private bus and a police car were hit by machine-gun fire and two constables were wounded, police said. A grenade left behind by the attackers was later detonated by the bomb disposal squad.

"We don't know where he (Devananda) is. But all we know is that some bombs were thrown and firing went on for about 10 minutes. We have lost contact with his home," a spokesman at the EPDP head office said.

Devananda's residence considered till now a "safe house" near their party headquarters in the fashionable Park Road area of Colombo was cordoned off by heavily armed police and military units rushed to the area.

Devananda's party has been supporting the Colombo government in its drive against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The Tigers are waging a separatist war against Sri Lankan security forces.

Devananda is on the hit-list of the LTTE which has accused him of being a traitor to the cause of a separate Tamil homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions.

Earlier Monday Tamil Tiger guerrillas launched a mortar barrage against security forces in northern Sri Lanka, but hit a Methodist home for the elderly, killing nine people, a military spokesman said.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fired home-made mortars in the Jaffna peninsula where the army was consolidating in areas captured from the rebels, spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

He said the nine killed in the attack were men aged between 60 and 70 who were being looked after by the Church. The military had provided food and medicines to the church since capturing the area from the LTTE last week.

In another development, the LTTE ambushed a group of police Special Task Force (STF) commandos in the island's eastern district of Batticaloa and killed eight troopers and wounded seven others, a military statement said.

Rebel casualties were not immediately known but two LTTE fighters were killed in a separate gun battle with the STF elsewhere in the eastern province.]

Party Leader Suspects LTTE

*BK1010054395 Hong Kong AFP in English
0526 GMT 10 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 10 (AFP) — A key Tamil politician who lost four bodyguards in a gunbattle in Colombo said Tuesday [10 October] he suspected the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were responsible for the attack.

"I think it is the LTTE which is trying to get me. They feel that we are emerging as the alter Tamil leadership. They had also attacked me in their recent newspaper articles," Douglas Devananda, leader of the pro-government Eelam People's Democratic Party, (EPDP) told AFP.

Devananda said in the attack on Monday night his house was raked with machine-gun fire and hand grenades were lobbed through the windows. He said gunmen also fired a 40 millimeter mortar bomb at his house.

"After fighting for about 20 minutes, I withdrew with some of my comrades. There were about five men involved in the attack," Devananda said, adding that President Chandrika Kumaratunga had expressed her concern about the incident, which left him with only an injured hand.

Devananda's party has been supporting the Colombo government in its drive against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The Tigers have been waging a 20 year separatist war against Sri Lankan security forces.

Devananda is on the hit list of the LTTE which has accused him of being a traitor to the cause of a separate Tamil homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions.

LTTE Intelligence Chief Reportedly Removed

*BK0510161795 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 5 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Sri Lanka, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is believed to have

removed its intelligence chief, Pottu Amman, one of the accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. The Indian Government had sought Pottu Amman's extradition. A Sri Lankan military spokesman said in Colombo today that Kapil Amman is the new chief. The spokesman attributed this to the developing dissension among the LTTE cadres.

Germany To Provide 1.8 Billion Rupees for Projects

*BK0710123095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting
Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 7 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Germany has agreed to provide 1,800 million rupees for three infrastructure development and agriculture projects in Sri Lanka. A sum of up to 720 million rupees will be spent for the promotion of infrastructural development for the private sector. It will be cofinanced by the World Bank, ADB [Asian Development Bank], and the German Reconstruction Bank.

This project will develop a modern and efficient system of infrastructure in Sri Lanka. Water supply schemes will be implemented in the Amparai and Nawalapitiya areas at a cost of 720 million rupees. After the completion of this scheme, people in these areas will have the facility of pipe-borne water. A sum of 350 million rupees will be set apart for general commodity aid for the procurement of fertilizer.

The financial cooperation agreement covering these three projects was signed yesterday by the ambassador of Germany, Michel Schmidt, and the deputy secretary to the treasury, Dayawai Liyanage.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

- Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.
- Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.
- Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.